

No: 10/91

Ref: EW/G91/08/10

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Pitts S-2E, G-KITI

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming IO-360-A1A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1982

Date & Time (UTC): 9 August 1991 at 1800 hrs

Location: Shoreham Airport, Sussex

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Undercarriage collapsed, damage to underside of fuselage and propeller

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 45 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 13,000 hours (of which 80 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was returning from a short local flight, after normal airfield closing time, as a routine approved out of hours movement. Due to prevailing wind conditions, an approach was made to the grass runway 25 at Shoreham. The pilot reported that after a normal approach and touchdown, with only small bounces due to runway surface condition, the aircraft slowed to approximately 15-20 kts, and the undercarriage collapsed. Both occupants vacated the aircraft by the normal means. There was no fire.

The aircraft was homebuilt, constructed in the United States in 1982, and had been imported and operated for approximately 18 months in the U.K. on a Permit to Fly. It had flown some 221 hours prior to the accident. Inspection of the undercarriage assembly by the repair agency revealed that a weld in the support tubing had suffered a fatigue failure. The method of assembly of the tubing was not to the original Pitts S2 design, and will be modified to the correct standard during repair.