

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/95

Ref: EW/G95/08/22

Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Rans S10 Sakota, G-BRSC

No & Type of Engines: 1 Rotax 532 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1990

Date & Time (UTC): 17 August 1995 at 1445 hrs

Location: Near Eggesford, Devon

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Damage to left opening canopy

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 62 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 433 hours (of which 44 were on type)
Last 90 days - 4 hours
Last 28 days - 3 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Whilst cruising straight and level at an altitude of 2,000 feet and an Indicated Air Speed (IAS) of 90 mph, the left canopy opened and instantaneously detached from the aircraft. After reducing speed, the pilot carried out a handling check which showed nothing untoward, following which the aircraft made an uneventful landing back at Dunkeswell. A subsequent examination of the aircraft failed to reveal any signs of damage to the airframe.

The upward opening canopies on this aircraft are held closed by a shaped hinged plate attached to the transparency which hooks around an adjacent fuselage member. Attached to this plate is a finger tab, around which is looped a bungee safety strap. The pilot stated that whilst adjusting his seating position his left hip moved the tab and dislodged the safety strap, thereby allowing the canopy to open.