

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Stampe SV4C (Modified) Stampe, G-BPLM	
No & Type of Engines:	1 De Havilland Gipsy Major 10 MK.2 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1948 (Serial no: 1004)	
Date & Time (UTC):	22 June 2014 at 1640 hrs	
Location:	½ nm north-west of Paddock Wood, Tunbridge Wells, Kent	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Cowling and spinner dented, damage to leading edges and tops of wings, rudder compressed	
Commander's Licence:	Commercial Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	66 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	20,546 hours (of which 910 were on type) Last 90 days - 41 hours Last 28 days - 35 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

On passing Redhill, during a flight from Clutton Hill in Somerset to Headcorn in Kent, the pilot checked he had sufficient fuel for the remaining 25 nm of the flight. Just west of Paddock Wood, at 1,700 ft amsl, the aircraft was caught in a "particularly harsh" thermal, shortly after which the engine "coughed". The pilot considered this to be so unusual that he decided to land immediately at Old Hay Airfield, 1 nm east of Paddock Wood; however, the engine then stopped. He checked the mixture, fuel and magnetos and set up for a forced landing in what looked like a hay field. At about 100 ft, positioned to land a third of the way into the field, the pilot realized the crop was rapeseed which he knew was much denser than hay. To try to reduce his forward speed on touchdown, he "deep stalled" the aircraft just above the crop; however, the undercarriage caught in the rapeseed and the aircraft slowly pitched over onto its back. With the magnetos and fuel off, he released his full harness and additional lap strap before vacating the aircraft unhurt. The pilot suspected that the problem was caused by the carburettor's float needle jamming in its base – a problem he was aware had occurred on another Stampe at Headcorn in 2013.