

**ACCIDENT**

<b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b>	Europa, G-TAGR	
<b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>	1 Rotax 912 ULS piston engine	
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	2004 (Serial no: PFA 247-13061)	
<b>Date &amp; Time (UTC):</b>	1 July 2015 at 1120 hrs	
<b>Location:</b>	Bolt Head Airfield, Devon	
<b>Type of Flight:</b>	Private	
<b>Persons on Board:</b>	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
<b>Injuries:</b>	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
<b>Nature of Damage:</b>	Tail and rear fuselage cracked, left wing and aileron damage	
<b>Commander's Licence:</b>	Private Pilot's Licence	
<b>Commander's Age:</b>	73 years	
<b>Commander's Flying Experience:</b>	1,126 hours (of which 118 were on type) Last 90 days - 32 hours Last 28 days - 11 hours	
<b>Information Source:</b>	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

**Synopsis**

*This accident bears many similarities with another, nearly two weeks earlier, involving an Auster J5F Aiglet, G-AMZT, (also included in this Bulletin, see page 79) which had landed in the same barley crop after mistaking it for the reciprocal Runway 29.*

The pilot intended to land on grass Runway 11 at Bolt Head Airfield but mistakenly landed in a crop of barley to the right of it. He cites a lack of runway markings and the fact that the potentially deceptive nature of the airfield layout was not mentioned when he had telephoned the airfield operator earlier, as factors in the accident.

**History of the flight**

G-TAGR arrived, in loose formation with two others, from the north, intending to land on Runway 11. As the pilot turned right downwind, he looked at the airfield and saw a long strip of pale brown vegetation which he took to be the runway (Figure 1). He made his approach to this strip and only realised his mistake as he flared and the wheels sank into what was actually a crop of barley growing to the right of the grass runway. The aircraft slowed very rapidly, yawed through 180° and came to a halt in about 18 m.

The pilot believes the accident was caused by the complete absence of runway markings coupled with the fact that no mention was made of crops both sides of the runway when he

telephoned to ask for permission to land. However, although this fact is correctly reflected in the Pooleys Flight Guide chart for Bolt Head, the airfield website has subsequently been updated to add the following caution:

*'JULY 2015 - WARNING - THE STRIP OF CROPS TO THE SOUTH OF THE RUNWAY CAN BE DECEPTIVE AND CAN APPEAR TO BE RUNWAY - IT IS NOT , IT IS 3FT HIGH CROPS - INBOUND PILOTS MUST POSITIVELY IDENTIFY THE RUNWAY AND LAND ON THE MOWN GRASS PER OUR PLATE AND PHOTOS, NOT ON THE CROPS .'*



**Figure 1**

View looking along Runway 11 showing a barley crop growing along its southern edge, with more barley and a green corn field to the north. Pictures taken at different times of the year show that contrast and colours vary with ripeness of the crops.