

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Gardan GY80-160 Horizon, G-TIMY	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-B3B piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1964 (Serial no: 36)	
Date & Time (UTC):	11 March 2016 at 1730 hrs	
Location:	2 miles east of Coventry Airport	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Propeller, landing gear, engine and lower fuselage	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	21 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	97 hours (of which 42 were on type) Last 90 days - 8 hours Last 28 days - 7 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The pilot reported that while conducting pre-flight checks, the fuel drain sample contained water, which he described as a common occurrence for this aircraft. He drained the fuel until he obtained a clear sample. He took further samples, including after refuelling, until satisfied that the fuel tanks were free from water contamination.

The aircraft took off from Runway 23 at Coventry Airport, with the pilot reporting the pre-takeoff engine power checks and after takeoff checks being normal. After climbing to 2,000 ft, the engine began to run rough. The pilot turned on the fuel pump and informed ATC he would be returning to Coventry, but the rpm continued to reduce and the engine subsequently stopped. He selected a different fuel tank and restarted the engine, but the aircraft could not maintain height. He chose a field in which to land, electing to keep the undercarriage retracted due to the ground conditions and to maximise the glide range¹. The forced landing was successful and both occupants exited the aircraft without assistance.

The pilot considered that the engine failure may have been caused by water contamination in the fuel, carbon build-up on the spark plugs, or some other problem.

Footnote

¹ On this aircraft type the flaps extend fully when the landing gear is lowered.
