

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Rutan Long-EZ, G-ICON	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Continental Motors Corp O-240 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2000 (Serial no: PFA 074A-11104)	
Date & Time (UTC):	20 January 2020 at 1330 hrs	
Location:	Retford Gamston Airport, Nottinghamshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to main landing gear, nose fairing, propeller and engine	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	78 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	392 hours (of which 98 were on type) Last 90 days – 0.6 hours Last 28 days – 0 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The pilot of G-ICON started the aircraft's engine in preparation for a short local flight. He ensured that the engine had fully warmed up before calling the tower for taxi, as overnight the temperature was near freezing. After carrying out his pre-flight checks, including a successful engine run-up, he called the tower to take off from Runway 21.

The takeoff was normal until, at about 600 ft aal, the engine began to run less smoothly with a loss of power. He immediately applied carburettor heat, to no effect, before positioning the aircraft for a tight circuit to land back on Runway 21. On short final, he saw that there was another aircraft on the runway which was unable to vacate in time and so thought about landing at the beginning of Runway 31. However, this would have required a series of 'S turns' at low height and low airspeed so he decided to level the wings to land further down Runway 31. Unfortunately, he landed just to the side of Runway 31 about halfway along its length. Although the landing was soft, the aircraft sustained substantial damage when the main landing gear was torn from the aircraft by an irrigation pipe. The cause for the loss of engine power has not been established.