

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Parrot Anafi Thermal	
No & Type of Engines:	4 Standard Parrot Electric motors	
Year of Manufacture:	2019 (Serial no: PS728120AA9H002623)	
Date & Time (UTC):	11 June 2020 at 1211 hrs	
Location:	Near The Dicker, East Sussex	
Type of Flight:	Commercial Ops (UAS)	
Persons on Board:	Crew - N/A	Passengers - N/A
Injuries:	Crew - N/A	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damaged gimbal and right front propeller	
Commander's Licence:	N/A	
Commander's Age:	42 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	113 hours (of which 8 were on type) Last 90 days - 1 hour Last 28 days - 1 hour	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

History of the flight

The operator was conducting training with the UAS for a pilot and observer. About 3 minutes after takeoff the UA was observed to be "twitching". Despite attempts to regain control, it was observed to pitch, yaw and change height by approximately ± 20 ft, and the UA was flown to the emergency landing area.

As the pilot descended the UA for landing it became less responsive. It then pitched down and flew away, without any input from the pilot, and did not respond to any subsequent inputs. The pilot selected the 'return to home' function, without effect, and announced "control lost" to the observer. The UA then collided with a tree about 420 ft from the landing area and 100 ft agl, sustaining damage to its gimbal and front right folding propeller.

The operator believed that the flight characteristics and damage sustained indicated that the right front propeller failed in flight.

Safety actions

The operator had been replacing the propellers on all its UAs every 20 hours of flight time. At the time of the accident the propellers had flown for just under 9 hours. The operator will now change all folding propellers after 5 hours flight time and has made this a scheduled item in its electronic flight and maintenance logging software.