

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Escapade 912(1), G-ESKA	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 912-UL piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2005 (Serial no: BMAA/HB/371)	
Date & Time (UTC):	3 August 2018 at 1230 hrs	
Location:	Near Cranmore, Somerset	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Loss of wheel and undercarriage, wing tip and propeller damaged	
Commander's Licence:	National Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	59 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	797 hours (of which 120 were on type) Last 90 days - 17 hours Last 28 days - 7 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The pilot was landing away from his home airfield using a field strip he had visited previously. He had flown a standard 500 ft agl circuit and was completing his approach to land when the aircraft speed suddenly decreased and despite adding power the pilot was unable to arrest the rate of descent. The aircraft struck the ground heavily causing damage to the right main landing gear, which collapsed. This caused the right wingtip and the propeller to strike the ground. The aircraft slewed around and came to rest on the right wingtip and left main landing gear. Figure 1 shows the aircraft after the accident.

The day of the accident was warm, and the pilot had noted the presence of significant thermal activity at his home airfield. He considered it likely that the final stages of the approach had been through rising air across a sloping field but as he crossed the boundary hedge he exited the thermal and the aircraft began to sink with the speed decreasing. He was surprised by the sudden loss of lift and was unable to stop the aircraft striking the ground hard.



Figure 1

Aircraft resting on the right wingtip