

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Rans S6-ES Coyote LI, G-YTLY	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Jabiru 2200A piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2011 (Serial no: LAA 204-14925)	
Date & Time (UTC):	1 May 2018 at 0920 hrs	
Location:	Longside Airfield, Aberdeenshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Damage to landing gear and propeller, and engine shock-loaded	
Commander's Licence:	Other	
Commander's Age:	70 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	202 hours (of which 141 were on type) Last 90 days - 4 hours Last 28 days - 2 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

There was a light easterly wind when the pilot departed Runway 10 at Longside Airfield for a local flight. When he returned, 20 minutes later, the wind had unexpectedly veered and strengthened and he estimated it was from 220° at 17 kt. Therefore, he elected to land on an asphalt taxiway which is approximately 15 m wide and which runs from north to south, to the threshold of Runway 28¹. This taxiway is accepted locally as a useful, alternate landing strip for appropriately briefed microlight pilots.

No difficulty was experienced during the approach but, as the mainwheels made ground contact, a sudden gust of wind lifted the right wing and moved the aircraft left. The pilot applied power but the nose landing gear collapsed, the propeller struck the ground and the aircraft veered off the taxiway to the left before it stopped.

Prior to the flight, the pilot had consulted the Met Office's spot wind chart and BBC weather information. He knows that Longside is susceptible to abrupt wind shift, nevertheless with hindsight, he realises he could have better researched the forecast wind conditions for the likely duration of his flight.

Footnote

¹ The landing distance available is estimated to be 170 m but with a further 100 m of disused taxiway available to the south of the threshold, in the event of an overrun.