

## Accident

<b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b>	EAA Biplane, G-BPUA	
<b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>	1 Lycoming O-235-C piston engine	
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1986 (Serial no: SAAC-O2)	
<b>Date &amp; Time (UTC):</b>	3 June 2023 at 1125 hrs	
<b>Location:</b>	Great Oakley Airfield, Harwich, Essex	
<b>Type of Flight:</b>	Private	
<b>Persons on Board:</b>	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
<b>Injuries:</b>	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
<b>Nature of Damage:</b>	Damage to landing gear, fuselage and wings.	
<b>Commander's Licence:</b>	National Private Pilot's Licence	
<b>Commander's Age:</b>	69 years	
<b>Commander's Flying Experience:</b>	403 hours (of which 3 were on type) Last 90 days - 6 hours Last 28 days - 5 hours	
<b>Information Source:</b>	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

## History of the flight

Following a stable approach, on flaring to land the aircraft bounced to a height of approximately 6 ft and the pilot decided to go around. He applied full power, but the aircraft was slow to accelerate. The aircraft bounced twice more, gradually climbing and veering to the right of the runway, before the main wheels struck a crop in a field adjacent to the runway. G-BPUA came to rest inverted (Figure 1) and the pilot exited the aircraft unharmed.

The aircraft sustained structural damage to the landing gear, wings and fuselage tubes. The engine was shock loaded and the propeller shattered.

## Pilot's observations

The pilot had low hours on type and wished to improve his landing technique so elected to go around. The pilot reported that G-BPUA was considered relatively underpowered (a maintenance organisation had estimated the engine to be producing nearer 100 hp rather than the rated 115 hp), and the aircraft was operating close to its maximum takeoff weight of 521 kg. He calculated the takeoff weight to be 511 kg and landing weight 496 kg which could have contributed to the lack of climb performance following loss of airspeed from consecutive bounces.



**Figure 1**  
G-BPUA in the crop field