

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Sukhoi SU-29, G-SUUK	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Vedeneyev M14P piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1998 (Serial no: 001-01)	
Date & Time (UTC):	16 September 2023 at 1310 hrs	
Location:	Andrewsfield Aerodrome, Essex	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - 1 (Minor)	Passengers - 1 (Minor)
Nature of Damage:	Extensive damage	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	81 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	1,950 hours (of which 600 were on type) Last 90 days - 5 hours Last 28 days - 5 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and further enquiries by the AAIB	

Synopsis

Whilst the aircraft was making an approach, it is likely that its airspeed reduced such that the left wing stalled, causing a loss of control and impact with the ground.

History of the flight

The aircraft was making an approach to Runway 09 at Andrewsfield Aerodrome. The pilot sat in the rear seat and the passenger, who was a recently qualified pilot, sat in the front. Airfield CCTV showed that as the aircraft approached the runway the left wing dropped. The wingtip struck the ground causing the aircraft to cartwheel and it came to rest inverted in a ploughed field to the side of the runway (Figure 1). The passenger was able to free herself from the aircraft but the pilot required assistance. Both escaped with only minor injuries.

The pilot reported that he did not know what happened and believed there was nothing wrong with the aircraft. He thought he must have let the airspeed reduce on short final. He reported he had been flying the aircraft for 15 years so could not understand why he would have allowed this to happen.

The passenger reported that the approach had seemed normal until the wing dropped. She recalled that when the wing dropped the aircraft was so low it immediately flipped over.



Figure 1
G-SUUK after the accident

Conclusion

It is likely the airspeed reduced on short final causing the left wing to stall and the aircraft to roll to the left. The aircraft was low enough that the wingtip struck the ground.