

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/93

Ref: EW/G93/06/08

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Pitts S-1T Pitts Special, G-BKPZ

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming AEIO-360-A1A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1984

Date & Time (UTC): 8 June 1993 at 1800 hrs

Location: Downland Airstrip, Surrey

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial to propeller, upper main plane and rudder

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 47 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 755 hours (of which 230 were on type)
Last 90 days - 11 hours
Last 28 days - 7 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot departed Downland Farm Airstrip at 1740 hrs for a twenty minute local flight. The landing strip, which consisted of an area of dry cut grass 700 metres long and 14 metres wide orientated north-south, was surrounded by long grass and abeam the southerly threshold were areas set aside for the rearing of pigs. The weather at the time was CAVOK with a light easterly breeze less than 5 kt.

On his return from the local flightt the pilot overflew the runway, checking that it was clear, before positioning to land in a northerly direction. Approximately 90 metres after touchdown the pilot caught sight of a family of pigs 30 metres ahead of his aircraft and moving into his path from the long grass to his left. In order to avoid a collision he turned the aircraft to the right thus entering the area of long grass. Although he immediately tried to regain the runway the drag from the grass was such that the aircraft pitched 'head over heels' coming to rest inverted. The pilot, who was wearing a full harness, vacated the aircraft uninjured and proceeded to herd the stray pigs clear of the landing strip to allow following aircraft to land.