



BHPA Incident Report: GBR-2016-3411

INCIDENT

Aircraft Type:	Ozone Buzz Z4 paraglider. On inspection the glider was found to be in good condition.
Certification:	EN B
Manufacture Date:	Unknown
Location:	Devil's Dyke, West Sussex.
Date and Time:	Saturday 18 th June. Approximately 15.40
Type of Flight:	Ridge soaring.
Persons Involved:	Paraglider pilot.
Injuries:	Fatal
Nature of Damage:	No damage.
Pilot's Rating/Licence:	The pilot had taken out a training membership with the British Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (BHPA) on 24 th May 2012, which then lapsed in August 2012. He did not gain a BHPA paragliding rating.
Pilot's Age:	42
Pilot's Experience:	The pilot's experience is unknown.
Information Source:	Witness statements.

Synopsis While paragliding at Devil's Dyke in West Sussex, the pilot lost control of his paraglider at low level and was unable to regain control before colliding with the hillside.

History of the flight On the day of the incident the conditions were initially light with gentle thermic activity. There were approximately forty to fifty pilots on the hill with an estimated fifteen to twenty in the air at any one time. Later in the afternoon it became windy and most pilots decided

to land. At this time there were only 3 or 4 gliders in the air, the others either unable or unwilling to take off in the breezy conditions. The wind speed eventually dropped and more pilots took off. During this period four paraglider pilots were observed doing 'wingovers'. Pilot A was one of these four pilots. Pilot A's wingovers were described by a witness as being "large and in a 'side to side' movement" and "not using the correct technique". Approximately 15 to 20 minutes later Pilot A's glider was seen to rotate several times before recovering close to the hillside, flying towards the hill. Pilot A crashed heavily into the hillside sustaining fatal injuries. The cause of the departure from normal flight was not witnessed.

Findings

The Investigation finds that the pilot lost control of his paraglider while at a low altitude and in close proximity to the hillside. The loss of control was possibly due to the pilot carrying out uncoordinated wingover turns.

Recommendations

None.