

Europa, G-BVKF, 30 June 1996

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/96 Ref: EW/G96/06/40 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Europa, G-BVKF

No & Type of Engines: 1 Rotax 912 UL piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1995

Date & Time (UTC): 30 June 1996 at 0913 hrs

Location: Runway 09, Kirkwall Airport, Orkney Islands

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to landing gear, wing tip and propeller

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 49 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 1,259 hours (of which 43 were on type)

Last 90 days - 39 hours

Last 28 days - 12 hours

Information Source:

Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The weather conditions were good with the wind light and variable. While taking off from Runway 09 at Kirkwall, which is a paved surface, the aircraft veered to the left and departed from the runway. The left wingtip contacted the ground and the aircraft came to rest after about 100 metres. The pilot was able to leave the aircraft by the door and without injury. Damage to the aircraft was mainly to the undercarriage mainwheel and right outrigger, both of which had collapsed, allowing the propeller to contact the ground. There was also slight damage to the left wingtip.

In a frank report the pilot stated that he was distracted by a radio call from landing traffic and suggests that he may have raised the tail before adequate rudder authority was available.