

Wittman W8 Tailwind, G-BOHV

AAIB Bulletin No: 6/97 Ref: EW/G97/03/13 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Wittman W8 Tailwind, G-BOHV
No & Type of Engines:	1 Continental O-200-A piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1990
Date & Time (UTC):	14 March 1997 at 1615 hrs
Location:	Rufforth Airfield, York
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None - Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Extensive to engine and engine compartment
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	54 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	688 hours (of which 400 were on type) Last 90 days - 15 hours Last 28 days - 5 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was visiting Rufforth for the first time and made his approach to Runway 24, the length of which was 358 metres although the total length declared was 632 metres. The first part of the runway surface was tarmac, the latter part being grass. The surface wind was 250 / 15 kt and the visibility was good.

On his first landing the pilot realised that he would need to overrun onto the grass and therefore carried out a touch-and-go landing while he confirmed with ATC that the grass area was usable. He was advised that the grass was usable and to land to the left of the runway on the grass if he wished to land directly into wind. On the second approach the pilot did not land the aircraft until he had passed the end of the tarmac runway and, during the landing roll, he realised that there was insufficient distance in which to stop. Having decided to go around there was now insufficient distance remaining in which to accelerate to flying speed. The aircraft went through the hedge into the neighbouring field before coming to rest. There was no fire and the pilot and his passenger had released themselves from the aircraft by the time the rescue services arrived.