AAIB Bulletin No: 7/2005

Ref: EW/G2005/05/02

Category: 1.4

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Team Minimax, G-BYBW	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 447 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1999	
Date & Time (UTC):	1 May 2005 at 1600 hrs	
Location:	Washington Airstrip, West Sussex	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Minor damage to nose and wing tip	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	48 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	612 hours (of which 8 were on type) Last 90 days - 12 hours Last 28 days - 8 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Washington Airstrip is a private grass strip located adjacent to the South Downs Way, with a ridge to the east and south. The ridge, and the significant slope of the runway, dictate that takeoffs are normally carried out on Runway 24, and landings on the reciprocal Runway 06. On the day of the accident the slightly damp grass was approximately five inches high and there was a slight tailwind for landing on Runway 06.

The pilot flew a normal approach at 55 kt and touched down in a three point attitude. At a low speed during the landing roll, he felt a yaw to the left and a deceleration. Despite continuous full aft control column deflection, the aircraft's tail rose, the aircraft pitched over onto its nose and rolled to the right until the right wing tip contacted the ground. It eventually came to rest however, in an upright attitude. The pilot exited the aircraft without difficulty and later reported that he believed the aircraft pitched onto its nose as a consequence of, interaction with the long grass, the low-slung straight axle and band brakes of the landing gear, and the tailwind.