

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Pitts S-1C (4 Aileron), G-LOOP	
No & type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-E2D piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1973	
Date & Time (UTC):	17 September 2006 at 1425 hrs	
Location:	Isle of Wight (Sandown) Airport	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Propeller, lower cowling, fairings and undercarriage damaged	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	49 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	616 hours (of which 101 were on type) Last 90 days - Information not provided Last 28 days - 5 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and AAIB telephone enquiries	

Synopsis

During a takeoff on the grass Runway 23, the aircraft became airborne at a low speed and landed heavily, sustaining damage.

History of the flight

The pilot had flown from France to Sandown Airport with other owners of similar aircraft, and intended to depart for his home airfield. He commenced a takeoff on Runway 23, which has a grass surface and is 884 m long. He reported that at about 40 mph, his aircraft hit a bump in the runway surface, and became airborne with insufficient speed to fly. The aircraft landed heavily, and sustained damage, causing it to slew off the runway. The pilot discontinued the takeoff attempt and the aircraft

came to a halt. The pilot shut the aircraft down and vacated the cockpit without injury. There was no fire.

The airfield owner, who was present but did not witness the accident, recalled that the weather was deteriorating at the time of departure, and the pilot had seemed in a hurry to depart. He reported that he was not aware of any bumps on the runway surface which could cause such an accident. A search of the AAIB database (for the ten years prior to the accident) revealed no other accidents in which the runway surface at Sandown was suggested as a factor.