Taylor Titch, G-VIVI

AAIB Bulletin No: 3/2001

Ref: EW/G2000/11/09 - Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Taylor Titch, G-VIVI

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental O-200-A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1999

Date & Time (UTC): 19 November 2000 at 1330 hrs

Location: Nayland Airfield, Essex

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Wing damage

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 56 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 760 hours (of which 20 were on type)

Last 90 days - 14 hours

Last 28 days - 2 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot intended to take off from Runway 14 at Nayland Airfield. The runway was 600 metres in length, 20 metres wide and the grass surface was wet. The visibility was good with no significant weather and the surface wind was 220°/10 kt.

The pilot had completed the pre-flight checks and after starting the engine had allowed it to warm up thoroughly before taxiing to the end of the runway. During the take off, as he applied take-off power, the aircraft slewed to the left. The pilot applied right rudder to arrest this motion but he believes that he overcompensated and then had to apply left rudder to control the aircraft heading. He reported that the aircraft then skidded before entering some long grass to the left of the runway before encountering a steep drop towards trees. He was unable to correct the heading deviation and reduced power. The aircraft ran into the trees and came to rest with the aircraft on its nose. The pilot, who had securely fastened his shoulder harness prior to take off, was uninjured and vacated the aircraft unassisted.