

No: 8/91

Ref: EW/G91/05/14

Category: 1c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Zenair CH 200A, G-BPTO  
**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming O-320 piston engine  
**Year of Manufacture:** 1986  
**Date & Time (UTC):** 27 May 1991 at 1000 hrs  
**Location:** Eldersfield, Worcestershire  
**Type of Flight:** Private  
**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1 Passengers - 1  
**Injuries:** Crew - None Passengers - None  
**Nature of Damage:** Substantial damage to all parts of the aircraft  
**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence  
**Commander's Age:** 48 years  
**Commander's Flying Experience:** 143 hours (of which 41 were on type)  
**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The 380 metre strip at Eldersfield has an uneven, grass tufted surface and is surrounded by small hills sloping up to about 100 feet. On the day of the accident, the weather was estimated by the pilot to be a northerly wind of 5 to 7 kt, a cloudbase of 3 to 4 oktas at 3 to 4000 feet and a temperature described as warm.

The take-off weight of the aircraft was calculated as 1410 lb, some 465 lb below the maximum authorised, and the pilot had taken off from the strip several times before in similar conditions of weather, wind and operating weight.

During the take-off the pilot noticed that, although the aircraft had accelerated to a normal airspeed as he passed between two trees which he uses as a decision point, the take-off run was some 40 metres longer than usual. The aircraft became airborne about three quarters of the way down the strip but struck the hedge at the far end and cartwheeled into the next field.

Although the damage to the aircraft was considerable, the two diagonal and lapstrap safety harnesses withstood the impact and there was no fire.