

Socata Morane Saulnier MS.892E-150, G-BVAN

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Category: 1.3

INCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Socata Morane Saulnier MS.892E-150, G-BVAN
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-E2A piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1973
Date & Time (UTC):	14 March 2003 at 1128 hrs
Location:	Lands End (St Just) Airport
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Propeller & possible damage to engine.
Commander's Licence:	Air Transport Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	54 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	18,292 hours (of which 20 were on type) Last 90 days - 206 hours Last 28 days - 67 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot planned a short local flight with a friend from Lands End Airport. The weather was fine but windy with a surface wind reported as 110°/26 kt. The aircraft taxied to the holding point for grass Runway 12 and was cleared to takeoff. As the aircraft turned slowly on to the runway centreline, the left wing lifted until the right wing tip touched the ground and the nose dipped causing the propeller to strike the ground. The pilot shut down the engine and he and his passenger vacated the aircraft through the normal exit, uninjured. On inspection, the pilot found that the nosewheel, which turns through castor action, was swivelled fully to the right. The ATC control tower reported a wind gust of 36 kt at about the time of the accident.

In his report the pilot considered that the cause of the accident was a strong gust of wind causing the left wing to lift at a time when the right wing was blanked from the wind by the fuselage. He also felt that the fully swivelled nosewheel may have contributed to the dipping of the nose when the left wing lifted.