

No: 9/85

Ref: EW/G85/08/08

**Aircraft type and registration:** Hoffman H36 Dimona G-BLCV (light single engined fixed wing aircraft)

**Year of Manufacture:** 1984

**Date and time (GMT):** 21 August 1985 at 0810 hrs

**Location:** Sanday Airfield, Orkney

**Type of flight:** Private (pleasure)

**Persons on board:** Crew — 1                      Passengers — None

**Injuries:** Crew — None                      Passengers — N/A

**Nature of damage:** Both wings and empenage damage. Fuselage severed behind the cockpit

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 49 years

**Commander's total flying experience:** 393 hours (of which 164 were on type)

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by pilot.

The pilot intended to fly to Hannover, W Germany, via Newcastle and Southend. He obtained a meteorological briefing from Glasgow, checked his aircraft, and then walked along Runway 29 at Sanday airfield. He noted long wet grass on the uphill part of the runway but observed that it was drier and shorter at the crest of the slope. He arranged alternative transport for an anticipated passenger in order to ensure that the aircraft would become airborne shortly after reaching the mid point of the runway. With the propeller in the take-off setting he began his ground roll into a 15 knot headwind. The aircraft eventually became airborne when it had passed the mid point and highest spot of the runway, but the pilot then considered that he had insufficient height to clear the stone wall at the airfield boundary. He therefore turned left to avoid the wall and touched down again. The aircraft ground looped so that the starboard wing tip collided with a fence that ran parallel to the southern side of runway 29. The aircraft was extensively damaged. There was no fire.

The pilot considers that, since he could not see the end of the runway until he had cleared the runway crest, he misjudged the point at which he had to be airborne in order to complete a successful take off. Furthermore the long wet grass acting upon the undercarriage wheel spats had increased the take off distance required. The runway length was 397 metres.