

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Evans VP-1 Series 2, G-EVPI	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Volkswagen 1834 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2004	
Date & Time (UTC):	6 April 2006 at 1030 hrs	
Location:	Deanland (Lewes), East Sussex	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to right wing, propeller and landing gear	
Commander's Licence:	National Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	52 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	445 hours (of which 42 were on type) Last 90 days - 13 hours Last 28 days - 0.5 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

During takeoff the aircraft deviated to the right, left the runway and struck the airfield perimeter fence. Insufficient control inputs had been applied to counteract a tendency for the aircraft to rise and move to the right as the tailwheel was raised.

History of the flight

On a calm clear day, with the wind reported as being from 240° at 5 kt, the pilot lined up to take off from Runway 24 at Deanland Airfield, East Sussex. The initial takeoff roll of the tail-wheeled aircraft was normal and as takeoff power was applied, the tailwheel was raised. The aircraft then deviated to the right and left the grass runway, before making contact with the airfield perimeter fence, causing damage to the right wing, propeller and the landing gear.

The pilot, who was wearing a four-point harness, was uninjured and exited the aircraft normally.

The pilot stated that this aircraft, as the tailwheel rose off the ground, had a tendency to rise up and move to the right, requiring correction by applying some forward stick and left rudder control input. In a full and frank statement the pilot felt that he had applied insufficient control inputs to counteract this characteristic of the aircraft. He also stated that a contributory factor could have been that this was only his second flight of the 'season', with just 0.5 flying hours completed in the last 28 days.