

Vans RV-4, G-RVIV

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/2003	Ref: EW/G2003/05/18	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Vans RV-4, G-RVIV	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming 0-320-D3G piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1999	
Date & Time (UTC):	25 May 2003 at 1820 hrs	
Location:	Truleigh Manor Farm, West Sussex	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Propeller and right wing tip. (2 feet)	
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	53 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	20,245 hours (of which 12 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 130 hours	
	Last 28 days - 77 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The aircraft was landing directly towards the setting sun on a grass strip some 480 metres long: the wind was calm and the grass was wet and fairly long.

The pilot apparently expected that the deceleration caused by the length of the grass would be greater than he subsequently experienced and, when he realised this and applied the brakes, there was insufficient runway remaining in the wet conditions to stop before the field boundary. There was an earth mound at the end of the runway and a substantial piece of agricultural machinery to the right of it. The pilot tried to steer the aircraft between the two obstacles, however he struck the machine with the propeller and right wing tip at slow speed.

The pilot considered that landing directly towards the setting sun had reduced his visual perception.