ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration: DH82A Tiger Moth, G-ANMY
No & Type of Engines: 1 De Havilland Gipsy Major I piston engine
Year of Manufacture: 1942
Date & Time (UTC): 5 June 2008 at 0935 hrs
Location: Land Mead Farm Strip, near Abingdon, Oxfordshire
Type of Flight: Private
Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1
Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None
Nature of Damage: Damage to propeller, engine cowling, tailplane and upper wings
Commander’s Licence: Airline Transport Pilot’s Licence
Commander’s Age: 66 years
Commander’s Flying Experience: 15,748 hours (of which 29 were on type)
Last 90 days - 16 hours
Last 28 days - 11 hours
Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Synopsis

The aircraft encountered previously unnoticed standing water during its takeoff roll from a grass airstrip. The water and associated soft ground caused a marked deceleration and the aircraft pitched forward, coming to rest inverted. The pilot and his passenger were uninjured and there was no fire.

History of the flight

Aware that heavy rain had fallen two days before, the pilot examined the full length of the main east-west grass runway in preparation for a takeoff. Although there were patches of water at the extreme western end and around the periphery of the runway, he found that the central portion was well drained and firm.
In a commendably honest report, the pilot acknowledged that the accident could have been avoided if he had walked the entire length of the takeoff area and not relied on a visual assessment. Also, he considered that the aircraft might not have inverted if he had closed the throttle the moment that he sensed the deceleration.