

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/94

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Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Jodel DR1050-M1 Sicile Record, G-BTIW

No & Type of Engines: 1 Rolls-Royce O-200-A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1965

Date & Time (UTC): 1 July 1994 at 1020 hrs

Location: Westbury-Sub-Mendip Airfield, Somerset

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - Minor Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Extensive, beyond economic repair

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 61 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 179 hours (of which 101 were on type)
Last 90 days - 9 hours
Last 28 days - 4 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was taking off from the grass/gravel Runway 11 at Westbury-Sub-Mendip unlicensed airfield, for a flight to Bristol Airport. The Runway is 540 metres long, and is narrow with a width of 20 metres. The runway runs along a raised embankment, which is the track of a disused railway line, and is partly bounded by a hedge. The pilot reported that the aircraft lifted off normally, but at around 60 kt the left wing dropped and it yawed left, causing the left wing to strike the hedge. The aircraft continued left and struck the ground in the field to the left and below the level of the runway. The stall warning horn did not sound during the short flight. The aircraft turned over after impact, breaking off the outboard section of each wing, and throwing clear the engine, fuel tank and instrument panel. The pilot, who was wearing a lap and diagonal harness evacuated the aircraft through the broken canopy.

The weather at the time was good, with the reported surface wind calm to 090°/10 kt.

AAIB records indicate two other similar occurrences at this airfield. The first was an MS.892A Rallye, registration G-ATWZ, on takeoff from Runway 29 on 4 October 1987 (AAIB Bulletin No 1/88). The other was a Cessna 172 RG, registration G-BOUH, while landing on Runway 11 on 8 January 1993 (AAIB Bulletin 3/93).