

No: 7/92

Ref: EW/G92/04/03

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Evans VP1 Series 2 Volksplane, G-BGLF

No & Type of Engines: 1 Volkswagen 1834 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1983

Date & Time (UTC): 5 April 1992 at 1500 hrs

Location: Cromer (Northrepps) Airfield, Norfolk

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Right main landing gear bent

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with IMC rating

Commander's Age: 38 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 261 hours (of which 43 were on type)
Last 90 days - 2 hrs
Last 28 days - 2 hrs

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The VP1 is a single-seat tailwheel "homebuilt" aircraft with mainwheels and a tailskid. The mainwheels are supported by heavy gauge aluminium bars with wire cross-bracing. The wheelbrakes are hydraulic and operated by a single hand-lever.

Northrepps has a single, unlicensed, grass strip runway orientated 18/36 which is 493 metres long and 23 metres wide. Aeroplane departures are restricted to runway 18 only which has a 2% down-slope. On the day of the accident several aircraft were parked on the left side of the runway 18. The weather was CAVOK and an aftercast of the wind by the National Meteorological Office concluded that the surface wind was between 280° and 290° at 8 to 12 kt. On take-off this would have produced a significant crosswind component from the right and a tailwind component of 4 kt or less.

During the attempted take-off which was downhill and downwind, the pilot lost directional control and the aircraft swung to the left. It departed the left side of the runway and came to rest between two parked aircraft having turned through about 120°.