

**ACCIDENT**

<b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b>	Bantam B22S, G-MZEY	
<b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>	1 Rotax 582 piston engine	
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1996 (Serial no: 96-002)	
<b>Date &amp; Time (UTC):</b>	28 July 2012 at 1210 hrs	
<b>Location:</b>	North Coates Airfield, Lincolnshire	
<b>Type of Flight:</b>	Private	
<b>Persons on Board:</b>	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
<b>Injuries:</b>	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
<b>Nature of Damage:</b>	The aircraft was extensively damaged	
<b>Commander's Licence:</b>	Private Pilot's Licence	
<b>Commander's Age:</b>	67 years	
<b>Commander's Flying Experience:</b>	248 hours (of which 0 were on type) Last 90 days - 3 hours Last 28 days - 2 hours	
<b>Information Source:</b>	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

**Synopsis**

Shortly after engine start, the microlight was turned over by a sudden and very powerful gust of wind which had the appearance of a small tornado.

**Description of the event**

The pilot carried out a full pre-flight inspection of the aircraft. He was accompanied by its owner, with whom he had flown recently, and it was to be the pilot's first solo flight on the microlight type. Following normal pre-start checks, the pilot started the engine. The surface wind was westerly, and described by a witness as "freshening" to 5 or 6 kt by this time. The witness, who was on duty as the airfield radio operator, enquired with the microlight owner whether he thought the conditions, which appeared to be changing, were still

suitable for the flight. A large, dark cloud was passing close to the airfield and the owner decided conditions were not suitable for the time being. Consequently, the radio operator approached the microlight from the right side to attract the pilot's attention, before giving him a 'cut engine' signal.

It was reported that, before the pilot could shut down the engine, an unusually large gust of wind lifted the microlight's right wing and pushed it across the apron, with its left wing tip scraping across the ground. The microlight owner attempted to hold onto the right wing strut but had to release it after he was lifted off the ground. As the left wingtip reached the grass verge, the microlight turned over onto its back. The

pilot released himself from his harness and vacated the microlight, as people nearby arrived to assist. The pilot was uninjured but the microlight sustained extensive damage.

towards the sea. It had a rotating appearance, as of a small tornado, and extended from the ground to an estimated height of 20 ft.

The gust of wind which overturned the aircraft was seen to move up the taxiway and across open fields