

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Microflight Spectrum, G-MWKW	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 503 piston engine	
Category:	1.4	
Year of Manufacture:	1990	
Date & Time (UTC):	23 August 2005 at 1830 hrs	
Location:	Sutton Meadows, Cambridgeshire	
Type of Flight:	Training	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 2	Passengers - Nil
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Extensive	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence with Flying Instructor Rating	
Commander's Age:	59 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	6,809 hours (of which 128 were on type) Last 90 days - 134 hours Last 28 days - 45 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The 'Spectrum' is a 3-axis microlight aircraft with conventional rudder, aileron and elevator controls.

The instructor and student were involved in a session of circuits on Runway 24, which had a dry grass surface and was 480 m long. The weather was good with a surface wind of 240°/08 kt. The student had previously flown some 55 hours in flex-wing aircraft and, more recently some 40 hours in 3-axis aircraft. His instructor considered that the student was very close to solo standard

and the instructor had not been required to make any inputs during the flight, which had involved some six to seven circuits. However, on the final takeoff, the aircraft started to turn to the right and the student failed to correct this movement with rudder. The instructor was unable to intervene before the aircraft left the runway, crossed a drainage ditch and came to rest in a beet field. Colliding with the far side of the ditch damaged the aircraft beyond economic repair.

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Thruster T300, G-MYAP	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 582-2V piston engine	
Category:	1.4	
Year of Manufacture:	1992	
Date & Time (UTC):	28 July 2005 at 0800 hrs	
Location:	Blowfield, Norwich	
Type of Flight:	Training	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 2	Passengers - Nil
Injuries:	Crew - 1 (Minor) 1 (Serious)	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Substantial damage to the fuselage and wings	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence with Microlight Instructor rating	
Commander's Age:	48 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	958 hours (of which 700 were on type) Last 90 days - 0 hours Last 28 days - 1 hour	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot plus a video recording of the approach	

Background

On Saturday 23 July, the student had been given a trial lesson in the microlight aircraft as a gift. He and his family arrived at the private operating site which was a grass field. The grass strip was orientated north/south and was estimated by the instructor to be between 250 m and 300 m in length, with a width of 45 ft at the narrowest point between the trees. The site was bordered by high trees on the west, north and east sides and open at the south end with a low fern hedge approximately 4 ft high, through which there was an opening to permit vehicle access. Takeoffs were made towards the south with approaches and landing carried out from the south, over the fern hedge.

The aircraft required maintenance prior to the trial lesson and the instructor carried out a short test flight before the student boarded the aircraft. During the flight the engine developed a technical problem resulting in a loss of power and the aircraft was landed back at the strip. Because the lesson had not been completed due to the technical problem, the student was told he would be given another trial lesson.

History of the flight

On the day of the accident the student arrived at the strip with his family and he departed on a local area flight