

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Vans RV-6A, G-TOGO	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming IO-320-D1A piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2003 (Serial no: PFA 181A-13447)	
Date & Time (UTC):	8 May 2016 at 1300 hrs	
Location:	Andrewsfield Airfield, Essex	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Damage to nose landing gear and associated fairings	
Commander's Licence:	Light Aircraft Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	68 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	18,500 hours (of which 598 were on type) Last 90 days - 3 hours Last 28 days - 3 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and verbal report by the aerodrome authority	

The pilot reported that the aircraft had just commenced its takeoff from the grass Runway 09 Right when it encountered an unseen obstruction. The nose of the aircraft pitched down and then up as the aircraft passed the obstruction. The aircraft was accelerating and handling normally, so the pilot elected to continue the takeoff. After landing, the nose landing gear fairings were found to be damaged, with grass and earth lodged in the torn fibreglass structures. Further examination showed the nose gear leg had been bent. The pilot thought that the aircraft may have encountered a shallow gully or rabbit hole.

The aerodrome authority reported that a full runway inspection had been carried out after the pilot reported the incident, but that no surface irregularities had been found. Several other aircraft had used the area in question, both before and after G-TOGO had taken off, and no other adverse reports had been received.