

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Scottish Aviation Bulldog, G-BZMD	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming IO-320-A1B6 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1973 (Serial no: BH120/247)	
Date & Time (UTC):	22 March 2018 at 16:35 hrs	
Location:	Slinfold Airfield, West Sussex	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - 1	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Extensive damage to wings, propeller and fuselage	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	50 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	8,929 hours (of which 23.40 were on type) Last 90 days - 194 hours Last 28 days - 78 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

After identifying some areas of soft ground on the runway, the pilot decided to use a "short-field" takeoff technique, starting from a hardstanding at the end of the runway. The pilot reports that the aircraft accelerated normally until it passed over an area of soft ground, when the acceleration decreased. At the required airspeed the pilot carried out a "gentle" rotation and the aircraft became airborne. Shortly afterwards there was a noticeable reduction in the aircraft's airspeed and the stall warning system operated. The aircraft descended slowly to a height of approximately 3 ft above the runway and struck a hedge at the end of the airfield. The aircraft remained upright and came to rest in a field 15 meters beyond the hedge, with severe damage. The reason for the loss of airspeed could not be determined.