

Evans VP-1 Series 2, G-BVUT

AAIB Bulletin No: 6/99 Ref: EW/G99/03/14 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Evans VP-1 Series 2, G-BVUT
No & Type of Engines:	1 Volkswagen 1600 piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1998
Date & Time (UTC):	13 March 1999 at 1505 hrs
Location:	Pepper Box Airstrip, Wiltshire
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - Minor - Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Substantial
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	42 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	228 hours (of which 10 were on type) Last 90 days - 2 hours Last 28 days - 2 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was taking off from the grass Runway 36 with a surface wind of 250°/11 kt. Because the aircraft was close to its maximum take-off weight, the pilot decided to carry on past his planned abort point and to rotate later than normal. The aircraft was rotated near the end of the strip and close to its minimum flying speed but, just after becoming airborne at a height of about three feet, the propeller struck a tree stump and the aircraft then flew into a wire fence. The pilot, who was restrained by a five point harness, received only minor injuries.

The pilot attributed the cause of the accident to his misjudgement of the effect of the surface wind on the aircraft's take-off performance.