

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Avid Speedwing, G-BTMS	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 582 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1999	
Date & Time (UTC):	6 May 2008 at 1400 hrs	
Location:	Burtenshaw Farm, East Sussex	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew – 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew – None	Passengers – N/A
Nature of Damage:	Minor damage to aircraft and car	
Commander's Licence:	Commercial Pilot's Licence - ATPL (Frozen)	
Commander's Age:	28 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	201 hours (of which 106 were on type) Last 90 days - 10 hours Last 28 days - None	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

Shortly after taking off from a farm strip, the engine power started to reduce slowly. The pilot turned the aircraft back towards the airfield and landed downwind on the runway from which he had just taken off. He was unable to stop the aircraft on the runway and it collided with a parked car.

History of the flight

As the owner had replaced the engine spark plugs the day before the accident, his son, who was the pilot on the accident flight, performed a long engine ground run prior to departing from the 300 metre long grass strip. At approximately 150 ft agl, the pilot became aware of a change in the engine noise and noticed that the rpm

was slowly decreasing. At around 400 ft agl, he turned back towards the strip and positioned the aircraft for a downwind landing on the runway from which he had just taken off.

The pilot stated that there was a strong tailwind and he was aware that the groundspeed was very high as he crossed the threshold. He applied the wheel brakes after touchdown, but when the aircraft hit a bump half-way down the runway, it was still travelling fast enough for it to become airborne for a further 30 metres. He was subsequently unable to stop the aircraft on the runway and it collided with a parked car.

Following the accident the engine was examined by an engineer, but no obvious cause for the loss of power could be found.