

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Flight Design CTSW, G-CEKD	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 912ULS piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2007	
Date & Time (UTC):	11 April 2010 at 1530 hrs	
Location:	Home Farm Strip, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Nose gear and engine mounts	
Commander's Licence:	Student Pilot	
Commander's Age:	62 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	223 hours (of which 104 were on type) Last 90 days - 16 hours Last 28 days - 8 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and further enquiries by the AAIB	

Synopsis

During the landing flare the aircraft drifted uncorrected towards the edge of the strip. At touchdown the aircraft's main wheels dug into soft ground causing the nose gear to touch down heavily.

History of the flight

At the time of the accident Runway 03 was in use at Home Farm Strip, Ebrington, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire and the wind was from 050° at 7 kt. Runway 03 is a grass runway cambered along its centreline and, as a result of recent heavy rain, the ground on the lower edges was softer than the centre of the strip.

After two hours of instructional flying the student pilot was briefed for a solo circuit. The takeoff, circuit and approach were uneventful. During the landing flare the left wing dropped and the aircraft drifted, uncorrected, towards the left hand edge of the strip. The main wheels touched down in the softer ground and dug in, causing the nose gear to touchdown heavily resulting in damage to it and the engine mounts. The pilot shut down and vacated the aircraft uninjured.

Instructor's comments

The instructor commented that, in hindsight, he feels he should not have sent the student solo as the crosswind and condition of the runway were unsuitable.