

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Jodel D18, G-JRKD	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Aeropower VW 2074cc piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1995 (Serial no: W177)	
Date & Time (UTC):	23 May 2012 at 1321 hrs	
Location:	Old Sarum Airfield, Wiltshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - 1 (Minor)	Passengers - 1 (Minor)
Nature of Damage:	Extensive damage to forward fuselage and wings, propeller broken	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	53 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	243 hours (of which 40 were on type) Last 90 days - 2 hours Last 28 days - None	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

The aircraft's engine started misfiring soon after takeoff, accompanied by a drop in rpm. There was insufficient height available to make a suitable landing field, and the aircraft landed in a pig farm. It struck a pig shelter on landing and overturned. Neither occupant suffered serious injury.

History of the flight

The aircraft had flown on the morning of the accident with no reported incident. The pilot arrived at the airfield at lunchtime and prepared the aircraft for a local flight, with the aircraft owner as his passenger. There was a light north-westerly wind, with good visibility and a temperature of 26°C. The grass Runway 24 was in use.

The engine was still warm from the previous flight and, after some initial difficulty, it started and ran normally. Engine performance during ground checks was satisfactory. Immediately after liftoff on the takeoff roll, the aircraft sank back onto the runway, landing firmly on its main wheels. When the aircraft had accelerated further, the aircraft lifted off once more and the pilot attempted to establish a normal 60 kt climb.

Soon afterwards, the engine started to sound rough. The pilot noticed that engine rpm was falling, and selected the electric fuel pump on, but the engine did not recover. He lowered the aircraft nose to maintain 50 kt IAS and identified a field ahead and slightly to the left for a forced

landing. He transmitted a short radio call announcing the problem and his intention. It very soon became apparent that the aircraft was too low to reach the chosen field and that it was descending quickly towards a pig farm. There was only time for a small course correction before the aircraft touched down and the left wing collided with a pig shelter. The landing gear seemed to strike an obstacle and the aircraft pitched nose-down, turning over and coming to rest upside down.

Neither occupant suffered serious injury. The canopy would not open but both occupants were able to exit the aircraft via the roof, once the panel was removed.

The pilot observed that the engine appeared to have started misfiring loudly, which he thought could have been due to an ignition or fuelling fault, and that the volume of the misfire did not reduce with reducing rpm. He also did not rule out carburettor icing. There had been insufficient time to attempt a restart or secure the engine prior to the forced landing.