

No: 3/90

Ref: EW/G89/12/05

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Robin DR400/160 Knight, G-BBDP

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-D2A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1973

Date and Time (UTC): 19 December 1989 at 1223 hrs

Location: Rochester Airfield, Kent

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Fractured nose landing gear, damage to propeller and fuselage underside

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with Night Rating

Commander's Age: 55 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 227 hours (of which 222 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was landing on a grass runway in conditions of light wind and good visibility and was seen to bounce several times before finally settling on to the runway. The pilot reported that, as the nose wheel touched the ground, he felt the aircraft lunge forward. He endeavoured then to raise the nose wheel and keep it in the air for as long as possible. Later in the landing run the nose landing gear collapsed causing the propeller and underside of the nose to strike the ground. The runway surface was wet but firm and had been used by several other aircraft prior to the accident.