

AAIB Bulletin No: 5/95

Ref: EW/G95/03/06

Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Cessna 152, G-BHYX

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-235-L2C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1978

Date & Time (UTC): 12 March 1995 at 1735 hrs

Location: Stapleford Tawney Airfield, Essex

Type of Flight: Private (Training)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial to propeller, nose landing gear and forward fuselage structure

Commander's Licence: Student Pilot

Commander's Age: 30 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 15 hours (all on type)
Last 90 days - 9 hours
Last 28 days - 4 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot, who was on his first solo flight, was landing on the grass Runway 04 with a light northerly wind. The landing was satisfactory but after a short ground roll the aircraft began to veer to the left and the pilot applied corrective rudder. This had some effect but not enough to ensure that the aircraft would miss the airfield boundary markers located at the edge of the runway. The pilot therefore decided to allow the aircraft to roll between the markers into the adjoining ploughed field where it came to a halt after a very short ground roll.

The pilot's instructor attributed the cause of the accident to the aircraft having entered a particularly soft area of the runway.