

Piper PA-22-160 Tri-Pacer, G-BTLM, 4 June 2002 at 1245 hrs

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| AAIB Bulletin No: 8/2002 | Ref: EW/G2002/06/06 | Category: 1.3 |
| Aircraft Type and Registration: | Piper PA-22-160 Tri-Pacer, G-BTLM | |
| No & Type of Engines: | 1 Lycoming O-320-B2A piston engine | |
| Year of Manufacture: | 1958 | |
| Date & Time (UTC): | 4 June 2002 at 1245 hrs | |
| Location: | Leicester Airport | |
| Type of Flight: | Private | |
| Persons on Board: | Crew - 1 | Passengers - 1 |
| Injuries: | Crew - None | Passengers - None |
| Nature of Damage: | Bent tailwheel attachment sternpost | |
| Commander's Licence: | Private Pilots Licence | |
| Commander's Age: | 61 years | |
| Commander's Flying Experience: | 365 hours (of which 160 were on type) | |
| | Last 90 days - 9 hours | |
| | Last 28 days - 4 hours | |
| Information Source: | Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot | |

The aircraft was landing on the asphalt Runway 28 at the end of a flight from Fenland airfield. The surface wind was estimated to be from 210° at 5 kt. The pilot reported that, after touchdown, he was unable to prevent the aircraft swinging to the left. This culminated in it leaving the runway at about 90° to the intended track. The aircraft ran onto a grass area, which was outside the designated manoeuvring area, and encountered ruts, possibly left by vehicle tyres. On crossing the ruts, the aircraft turned a further 90° to the left, catching the tailwheel and bending the sternpost.

The pilot considered that the aircraft may have landed tailwheel first, such that sideways drift could have caused the tailwheel to castor on contact with the runway, resulting in a loss of directional control.