

No: 5/91

Ref: EW/G91/03/09

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-28-140, G-ATJG

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-E2A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1965

Date and Time (UTC): 18 March 1991 at 1144 hrs

Location: RAE Bedford

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Minor: nose wheel oleo bent, damage to propeller and right wingtip

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 47 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 5,900 hours (of which 8 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The accident occurred towards the end of a pilot refamiliarisation sortie flown in good weather but with a strengthening south-westerly wind. Following a normal approach to runway 24 flown with 25° of flap, the aircraft touched down smoothly and without drift. When the nose was lowered and power increased for a further take-off, a gentle drift to the right developed and left rudder was applied to correct this drift. The aircraft then ground looped violently to the left, causing the propeller and starboard wingtip to contact the ground. The aircraft turned through 180° before control was regained. The surface wind reported before the landing was 210°/20 kt.