

AAIB Bulletin No: 7/94

Ref: EW/G94/05/27

Category: 1.3

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Rockwell Commander 112, G-BDKW

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming IO-360-C1D6 piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1973

**Date & Time (UTC):** 31 May 1994 at 1445 hrs

**Location:** Elmsett Airfield, Suffolk

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1 Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - None Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** Broken nose gear and bent propeller

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and Night Ratings

**Commander's Age:** 67 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 344 hours (of which 128 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 6 hours  
Last 28 days - None

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Most of the grass Runway 05 at Elmsett Airfield has a 1.8% up slope but it has a short steeper section at the threshold, which is not normally used.

When the aircraft returned to Elmsett to land after a short flight, the wind was 250°/12 kt and the pilot elected to benefit from the up slope and accept a light tailwind for landing. During the landing, just before the pilot initiated the flare, the nosewheel contacted the apex of the steep section of the runway and collapsed.