

No: 9/90

Ref: EW/G90/07/12

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Robin DR340 Major, G-AXSV
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-E2A piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1968
Date and Time (UTC):	21 July 1990 at 1050 hrs
Location:	Rossington Comprehensive School Field, Yorkshire
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 Passengers - 3
Injuries:	Crew - None Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Broken right main landing gear leg and supporting woodwork
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	49 years
Commander's Total Flying Experience:	476 hours (of which 200 were on type)
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

During an intended pleasure flight from Cambridge to Doncaster, the visibility reduction caused by mist gradually changed into low cloud, forcing the pilot to fly in and out of the cloudbase in order to maintain a safe height. Neither being licenced to do this nor wishing to do so, the pilot decided to make a precautionary landing at the first opportunity.

The long axis of the deserted playing field which he chose pointed approximately into the 10 kt north easterly wind and provided a smaller grass undershoot area which was lower than the intended landing strip. Between the two areas, the ground sloped upwards to the touchdown point.

The pilot states that he made a perfectly normal powered approach at 80 mph ($V_S = 60$ mph) but that, at about 12 feet, the aircraft suddenly dropped to the ground. He further states, with hindsight, that this almost certainly occurred because of a downdraught, caused by the wind following the slope of the approach to the strip.