

**ACCIDENT**

<b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b>	Focke Wulf (Piaggio) P149D, D-EARY	
<b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>	1 Lycoming GO-435-A piston engine	
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1959 (Serial no: 057)	
<b>Date &amp; Time (UTC):</b>	17 November 2012 at 1604 hrs	
<b>Location:</b>	Stretton Airfield, near Warrington	
<b>Type of Flight:</b>	Private	
<b>Persons on Board:</b>	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
<b>Injuries:</b>	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
<b>Nature of Damage:</b>	Damage to wing leading edges, landing gear and propeller	
<b>Commander's Licence:</b>	Private Pilot's Licence	
<b>Commander's Age:</b>	69 years	
<b>Commander's Flying Experience:</b>	1,391 hours (of which 37 were on type) Last 90 days - 6 hours Last 28 days - 1 hour	
<b>Information Source:</b>	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The aircraft had undergone an annual maintenance check at Caernarfon Airfield, followed by a local test flight. The pilot had decided to break the subsequent flight to his base airfield in North Yorkshire with a stop at Stretton Airfield. He obtained permission to use the airfield, and the forecast weather, which showed fine conditions and a surface wind from 240° at 8 to 12 kt. On arrival overhead Stretton, the conditions were found to be as forecast and the pilot carried out an approach to Runway 27.

The runway surface was variable, with only an 18 m strip on the north side (right side, viewed from the

27 approach) maintained in a suitable condition. The approach was into a low sun, which made judgement of height difficult. Just before touchdown, the pilot applied rudder to remove drift and align the aircraft with the runway. However, it continued just above the runway and drifted to the right. The right wing struck a large bush, which yawed the aircraft to the right and into a hedge.

The pilot attributed the accident to his continuing with the approach when the low sun and a stroboscopic effect made judgement of height difficult.