

Piper PA-28-161, G-SACU, 29 June 1996

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Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-28-161, G-SACU

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-D3G piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1988

Date & Time (UTC): 29 June 1996 at 1435 hrs

Location: Sherburn-in-Elmet Aerodrome, Leeds

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Left undercarriage detached, left wing and rear fuselage damaged. Propeller, engine cowling, nose wheel and engine mountings damaged

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 46 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 105 hours (of which 105 were on type)

Last 90 days - 4 hours

Last 28 days - 2 hours

Information Source:

Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was landing on Runway 29 with a surface wind of 290°/15 to 20 kt. The conditions were described as 'gusting'. When the aircraft reached a height of approximately 20 feet on the approach it experienced what the pilot described as a 'strong downdraft' which he was unable to correct. Consequently, the aircraft touched down in a field and bounced back into the air. Despite the application of engine power, the airspeed attained by the aircraft was considered by the pilot to be insufficient to maintain safe flight and so he lowered the nose of the aircraft, causing it to land on a tarmac taxiway which runs past the runway threshold. At some stage during this progress the left undercarriage became detached and the aircraft was severely damaged in the subsequent landing.