Piper PA-28-161 Cadet, G-FOXA

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/2003	Ref: EW/G2003/07/08	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-28-161 Cadet, G-FOXA	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-D3G piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1988	
Date & Time (UTC):	10 July 2003 at 1755 hrs	
Location:	Leicester Airfield, Leicestershire	
Type of Flight:	Training	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 2	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to nose wheel, right hand main wheel and propeller	
Commander's Licence:	Commercial Pilot's Licence with Instructor rating	
Commander's Age:	35 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	545 hours (of which 112 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 164 hours	
	Last 28 days - 16 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The aircraft was engaged on a circuit training detail, with the student initially flying two uneventful normal circuits. The instructor demonstrated a glide approach on the next circuit, with the student 'following through' on the controls. The student flew the following circuit and positioned the aircraft for a glide approach. The instructor noted that everything appeared to be normal on final approach, with the estimated touchdown point being just beyond the runway numbers, although he advised the student not to select any flap. However, the instructor reported that the aircraft encountered a sudden gust of wind whilst on very short finals, which resulted in an abrupt loss of height. The aircraft landed on rough ground just short of the runway paved area and rolled forwards, the nose wheel collapsing as it struck the raised edge of the paving. This caused the propeller to strike the ground and the right landing gear also collapsed after striking the paved edge.

The wind was reported as 230°/10 kts, with the active runway being 22. The instructor considered that the aircraft had encountered windshear conditions during the latter stages of the approach, with insufficient time to apply power.