

**No: 1/89**

**Ref: EW/G88/09/18**

**Category: 1c**

**Aircraft Type  
and Registration:**

Falconair F-11, G-ODEL

**No & Type of Engines:**

1 Continental Motors Corp O-200-A

**Year of Manufacture:**

1982

**Date and Time (UTC):**

4 September 1988 at 1700 hrs

**Location:**

Gransden Airfield, Sandy, Beds

**Type of Flight:**

Private (pleasure)

**Persons on Board:**

Crew - 1

Passengers - 1

**Injuries:**

Crew - None

Passengers - None

**Nature of Damage:**

Substantial damage to landing gear, airframe and propeller

**Commander's Licence:**

Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:**

35 years

**Commander's Total  
Flying Experience:**

270 hours (of which 175 were on type)

**Information Source:**

Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

After completing two flights from Leicester Airport the pilot reports that he was making his third flight of the day to land at Gransden airfield, Sandy, Bedfordshire. On arrival at Gransden he overflew the airfield to check the surface wind direction which was south-westerly at an estimated 10 kt. The pilot elected to land on runway 30 as he had landed on that runway previously. He was aware of the close proximity of trees to the touch down area, and was also anticipating the possibility of turbulence close to the runway threshold. He established the aircraft on a stable approach at about 80 mph IAS, however as speed was reduced to 70 mph and the aircraft descended into the lee of the trees, it suddenly descended rapidly and despite the immediate application of full power the pilot was unable to prevent the aircraft landing heavily in the undershoot area. The surface in this area consisted of the stubble of a recently cut crop, the nose undercarriage leg dug in, and the aircraft pitched over onto its back. Both occupants, who were wearing full upper torso restraint harnesses, vacated the aircraft without injury.