

No: 14/83

Ref: EW/G 83/11/04

Aircraft type and registration: Piper PA 28R, G-AWBA (light single engine fixed wing aircraft)

Year of manufacture: 1968

Date and time (GMT): 16 November 1983 at 1115 hrs

Location: White Waltham Aerodrome, Berkshire

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — Nil

Injuries: Crew — Nil Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Damage to the nosewheel, propeller and engine

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 67 years

Commander's total flying experience: 1074 hours (of which 101 were on type)

Prior to the intended flight, the pilot was briefed on the work in progress on runway 03, the runway in use. He was shown a sketch map and instructed where to run up and on which side of the runway to take off and land. He did not however realise that the trenches had been left unmarked.

In order to reach the take-off point for runway 03, the pilot intended to cross runway 29 which, although marked with coloured flags to prevent landings, showed no indication that it should not be crossed. As the aircraft crossed the centreline the nosewheel dropped into an unmarked trench.

The pilot, who had been wearing an upper torso restraint harness, escaped without injury.