

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Cessna 152, G-CEYI	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-235-L2C piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1979	
Date & Time (UTC):	18 June 2010 at 1006 hrs	
Location:	RAF Henlow, Bedfordshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to the nose landing gear, propeller, engine cowling, engine, engine bay, firewall and lower fuselage	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	78 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	24,350 hours (of which 30 were on type) Last 90 days - 4 hours Last 28 days - 1 hour	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The pilot reported that the purpose of the flight was to update his currency. The cloud was overcast at about 1,500 ft, so he elected to fly circuits at the airfield. Grass Runway 02 was in use, the wind was light from the north-east and the visibility was good. The first circuit was described as normal, as was the second until the aircraft bounced on touchdown. The subsequent landing was flat and firm and, after rolling a few metres, the nose landing gear collapsed. The propeller blades struck the surface and the aircraft came to a halt on the runway with the engine stopped. The pilot turned off the fuel, the magnetos and the master switch and vacated the aircraft normally, uninjured. There was no fire.

In an open and honest report the experienced pilot considered that the accident occurred because, having bounced, he did not go-around or, alternatively, maintain the correct landing attitude. Thus, during the subsequent firm landing the nose landing gear was overloaded and collapsed. He also considered that his lack of recent experience in light aircraft may have been a factor.