

AAIB Bulletin No: 6/95

Ref: EW/G95/03/04

Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-28-140 Cherokee, G-AXSZ

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-E2A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1969

Date & Time (UTC): 8 March 1995 at 1530 hrs

Location: White Waltham Airfield, Berkshire

Type of Flight: Private (Training)

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Substantial to nose landing gear

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 32 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 1,150 hours (of which approx 900 were on type)
Last 90 days - 100 hours
Last 28 days - 30 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot had completed an IMC training detail and was carrying out a practice short field approach and landing to grass Runway 25 at White Waltham Airfield. The weather was fine with a surface wind of 260°/12 kt with gusts to 30 kt.

During the final stages of the approach the aircraft was flared too high resulting in a heavy landing on the left main and nose landing gear. As a result damage was caused to the nose landing gear fork and axle.

The pilot reported that he was not current with short field landing techniques and the accident was caused by his misjudgement of the roundout height.