

Beech A23-19, G-DJHB

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/2002	Ref: EW/G2002/06/34	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Beech A23-19, G-DJHB	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-E2C piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1967	
Date & Time (UTC):	29 June 2002 at 1900 hrs	
Location:	Nayland Airfield, Essex	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Damage to propeller and nose landing gear	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilots Licence	
Commander's Age:	53 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	113 hours (of which 61 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 8 hours	
	Last 28 days - 5 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The aircraft was landing at Nayland Airfield, Essex, which is a private landing site with unlicensed grass runways. The pilot, who was familiar with the airfield, reported that he joined the circuit on a long final approach for Runway 32. This runway is a grass strip, 600 metres long and 20 metres wide, with a significant up slope in the centre section. The surface wind was reported as 280°/10 kt. The pilot recalled that, at around 600 feet agl, some turbulence was experienced. There are trees located just before the threshold of this runway. When passing over them, the pilot noticed that the aircraft was sinking. Once clear of the trees, he reduced power and commenced a flare. During the flare, the aircraft dropped to the surface from a height that he estimated as 10 to 15 feet and the aircraft landed heavily. The nosewheel detached and the propeller struck the surface before the aircraft came to rest. The pilot and his passenger were able to vacate the aircraft normally.

The pilot reported that he felt he could have prevented the accident by keeping the power on for longer and responding more quickly to the sink rate that was experienced.

