

Aircraft type and registration: Piper PA 28R-180 Cherokee Arrow G-AWBA (light single engine fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1968

Date and time (GMT): 29 November 1984 at 1305 hrs

Location: Wickham Hall Farm, Wickham Bishops, Essex

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 1

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Damage to noseleg, propeller, and engine cowling

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 26 years

Commander's total flying experience: 84 hours (of which 5 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot had flown from Andrewsfield to Stapleford and had spent about one hour on the ground. He took off to return to Andrewsfield in a visibility of 10 kilometers and with a 1000 feet cloudbase. En route he encountered deteriorating weather with the cloudbase down to 400 feet in the vicinity of his destination. After attempting unsuccessfully to find a path around the weather he contacted Stansted who advised a diversion to Southend. However, the weather deteriorated even further to 200 feet cloudbase and half a mile visibility, so the pilot elected to land in the nearest suitable field. The touchdown was without incident but the nosewheel dug into the soft ground collapsing the leg and damaging the fuselage.

A study of the forecast weather and the actuals indicated that the weather encountered by the pilot was worse than that forecast.