

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/95

Ref: EW/G95/08/06

Category: 1.3

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

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming O-320-E3D piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1973

**Date & Time (UTC):** 6 August 1995 at 1314 hrs

**Location:** Bristol (Lulsgate) Airport, Avon

**Type of Flight:** Private (Training)

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1 Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - None Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** Substantial to main landing gear oleo, nose landing gear wheel and propeller

**Commander's Licence:** Student Pilot

**Commander's Age:** 25 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 13 hours (all on type)  
Last 90 days - 13 hours  
Last 28 days - 4 hours

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The student pilot was carrying out a series of solo circuits on Runway 09 at Bristol Airport. The weather conditions were fine with a surface wind of 040°/08 kt, clear skies and good visibility. The pilot reported that on the fourth approach he misjudged the flare height and allowed the aircraft's speed to reduce close to the stall. To correct the situation he lowered the nose and applied power but touched down nosewheel first. The aircraft bounced and landed a second time nosewheel first which resulted in the nose wheel tyre bursting and the loss of directional control. The aircraft veered to the right of the runway coming to rest on the grass. The pilot, who vacated the aircraft without injury, assessed the cause of the accident as being due to his lack of overall experience.