

Piper PA-28 180, G-BPGL, 1 June 1996

AAIB Bulletin No: 7/96 **Ref:** EW/G96/06/01 **Category:** 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-28 180, G-BPGL

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-360-A4A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1974

Date & Time (UTC): 1 June 1996 at 1230 hrs

Location: Morley Airstrip, Wymondham, Norfolk

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - Minor Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Left wing separated from fuselage which was also buckled; propeller bent. Aircraft written off

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and Night Rating

Commander's Age: 48 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 422 hours (of which 372 were on type)

Last 90 days - 8 hours

Last 28 days - 5 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was returning to Morley from a short local flight. The pilot noticed a heavy shower to the west of his airfield and therefore decided to land before completing his planned route. ATC at Norwich (some 10 miles north east of the airstrip) reported their surface wind as 250° at 12 knots. With rain spot hitting the windscreen, the pilot made an uneventful overhead rejoin, approach to Runway 25 and touchdown. As the aircraft touched down the wind suddenly veered to the south west, causing the aircraft to weathercock into wind and head in the direction of a spinney of trees. The pilot applied a little power and, sensing that the aircraft was just airborne, a little right bank. However, he was unable to prevent the aircraft striking a tree with its left wing, which became detached about its mid spar, and the aircraft from somersaulting inverted into an adjacent field. The pilot was able to leave the aircraft unaided via the baggage door. He was examined by X-ray at hospital and later diagnosed as having fractured his lower vertebrae.

