

No: 11/85

Ref: EW/G85/09/10

Aircraft type and registration: Cessna F177RG PH-VWP (light single engined fixed wing aircraft)

Year of Manufacture: 1974

Date and time (GMT): 16 September 1985 at 1550 hrs

Location: Leicester Airport

Type of flight: Private (business)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 2

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Propeller and horizontal stabilizer damaged. Skin damage to underside of the rear fuselage

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 38 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 96 hours

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

The flight had cleared customs inbound at Luton airport and the aircraft was approaching to land at Leicester Airport. With the landing gear selected down the pilot noticed that the normal green indication was not showing and the warning horn sounded when power was reduced. The pilot chose to land on runway 24, a grass runway, in view of the reported surface wind of 240° gusting to 24 kt. Whilst on final approach the gear was recycled and the pilot reports seeing a normal green light indication that the landing gear was locked down.

Experienced observers at Leicester Airport judged the approach speed to be rather fast. The aircraft touched down on its main wheels about 100 metres along the total runway length of 335 metres. The aircraft was seen to bounce and pitch nose up before settling back onto the runway, at which point the main wheels appeared to retract. The aircraft then ran over the end of the runway for about 100 metres and slewed to the left before coming to rest.

Engineering investigation revealed that after the accident bolts in the main landing gear had sheared off probably because the gear was not locked down on initial touchdown. The nose wheel gear was undamaged and no pre-existing defect in the landing gear was discovered.