

No: 10/90

Ref: EW/G90/08/18

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-28R-200-2, G-BAIH

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming IO-360-C1C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1972

Date and Time (UTC): 24 August 1990 at 1915 hrs

Location: Chester-le-Street, County Durham

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Propeller, nose landing gear and wing leading edges damaged

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

Commander's Age: 39 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 518 hours (of which 223 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Whilst established in the holding pattern, waiting for the weather to clear at both his destination and alternate airfields, the pilot was told by ATC that, if he wished to use it, there was a grass landing strip situated below the holding pattern. Wanting to land before the onset of darkness, the pilot accepted this offer and, having made an inspection of the strip, carried out a normal circuit and approach to land.

However, the presence of some street lights beneath the approach path obliged the pilot to land some 50 yards into the 600 yard strip, where the very wet grass allowed only limited directional control and provided poor braking action. In consequence, the aircraft, still travelling at about 15 mph, passed through a fence at the end of the strip, damaging the wings and collapsing the nose landing gear. There was no fire and the pilot left the aircraft without further incident.