

Grumman AA-5 Traveller, G-BLFW

AAIB Bulletin No: 4/2004	Ref: EW/G2003/12/12	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Grumman AA-5 Traveller, G-BLFW	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-E2G piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1975	
Date & Time (UTC):	15 December 2003 at 1130 hrs	
Location:	Draycott Farm, Swindon, Wiltshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Substantial to nosewheel and propeller; minor to underside of cowling	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	49 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	197 hours (of which 65 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 9 hours	
	Last 28 days - 3 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The grass strip in use (Runway 36) was dry but soft and had two humps, the first of these some distance beyond the normal touchdown point. Wind conditions were light or calm. The pilot reported that the approach was normal and the engine was throttled back completely as the aircraft reached the threshold. The aircraft floated, and did not touch down until it reached the rising ground of the first hump, when the initial contact caused the aircraft to bounce. The bounce did not appear to be excessive so the pilot did not apply power, however on the second ground contact a more severe bounce occurred and before the pilot could take action the aircraft landed more heavily. After a short ground roll the nose landing gear failed and the aircraft then came to rest on the nose cowling. Neither the pilot nor the passenger was injured and both were able to exit the aircraft normally.

The pilot reported that a touchdown nearer the threshold on the level surface of the strip and a reduced airspeed would have resulted in a normal landing. He also considered that the soft ground was a factor in the nose landing gear failure.