

No: 1/89

Ref: EW/G88/10/15

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-22-150, G-APTP

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-A2B piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1957

Date and Time (UTC): 23 October 1988 at 1400 hrs

Location: near Aston Somerville, Gloucester

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial damage to elevator and rudder sections

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

Commander's Age: 33 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 313 hours (of which 135 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was taking off from a private landing strip at a farm near Aston Somerville, Gloucestershire. The landing strip surface was long wet grass, and the take-off run available was assessed as approximately 420 metres with a pronounced down slope. Shortly after lift off the aircraft's tail section contacted a boundary hedge and it was landed in an adjacent field. In his accident report the pilot records that he failed to consider accurately the effect of long grass to the take-off distance required.

Aeronautical Information Circular 52/1985 includes details of all the recommended factors that should be applied in calculating a light aircraft's take-off performance.