

Cessna F172H, G-AXBH, 2 June 1996

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/96 Ref: EW/G96/06/02 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Cessna F172H, G-AXBH

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1969

Date & Time (UTC): 2 June 1996 at 1145 hrs

Location: Compton Abbas Airfield, Compton

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 2

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers -1 Minor

Nature of Damage: Aircraft assessed as beyond economic repair, having come to rest inverted

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 57 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 201 hours (of which 46 were on type)

Last 90 days - 51 hours

Last 28 days - 4 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was landing at Compton Abbas after a flight from Popham, Hampshire. The weather was fine with a reported westerly wind at 5 knots. The aircraft touched down about one third along the 803 metre Runway 26. Although he realised that the aircraft had 'floated' along part of the runway, the pilot applied braking and then, as the aircraft was approaching the end of the runway, he decided to initiate a 'go around'. He applied full power and selected carburettor heat to COLD. With the nose wheel clear of the ground, the aircraft entered a corn field at the end of the runway and this prevented any further acceleration. The aircraft then struck a hedge before coming to rest inverted in the next field. The pilot and passengers were able to leave the aircraft via the cabin door. The AFISO on duty saw the aircraft run off the end of the runway and despatched the airfield fire truck to the scene before calling the police and ambulance services.

The pilot reports that he had not appreciated the excessive float and runway distance covered early enough to convert his decision to stop into one of going around. There was therefore insufficient distance in which to accelerate to the required speed.