

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-28-161 Cherokee Warrior II, G-BTNE	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-D3G piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1981 (Serial no: 28-8116212)	
Date & Time (UTC):	7 April 2013 at 1303 hrs	
Location:	Earls Colne Airfield, Essex	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 3
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Severe damage to wings and fuselage	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	48 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	182 hours (of which 31 were on type) Last 90 days - 8 hours Last 28 days - 6 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

The aircraft touched down on Runway 24L at Earls Colne Airfield after a longer than normal flare. When the pilot applied the brakes the aircraft veered to the left onto the grass and struck two parked aircraft.

History of the flight

The pilot departed from Wellesbourne Airfield with three passengers to fly to Earls Colne Airfield. The weather was good, with a light surface wind from 190° at 05 kt and isolated scattered and broken cloud between 2,000 ft and 4,000 ft. The transit was uneventful and after passing over Clacton Airfield, the pilot contacted Earls Colne. He was passed the surface wind which was light and variable, with Runway 24L as the landing

runway. This has an asphalt surface, 939 m long and 20 m wide, with an LDA of 778 m.

Having joined the circuit, the pilot established the aircraft on the final approach, but considered that he was high and executed a go-around. The second approach was normal and stabilised at 70 kt with two stages of flap selected. The aircraft was flared at the usual height but appeared to 'float' further than normal and the pilot estimated that he had used up half the runway length when the mainwheels touched down.

When the brakes were applied, the aircraft veered suddenly to the left. Despite the pilot's attempts to correct the heading with right rudder, the aircraft continued to

the left onto the grass. He decided to go around and applied power but the wheels appeared to dig in and, although the aircraft accelerated, there was insufficient airspeed to take off. He closed the throttle and applied maximum braking, but was unable to prevent his aircraft from colliding with two aircraft in the parking area. The pilot isolated the fuel and electrical systems before all those onboard evacuated the aircraft through the normal exit.

The pilot assessed the cause of the accident as a loss of control on landing as he was unable to correct the veer to the left on the runway. This caused the aircraft to run onto the grass and despite his efforts to correct the situation he was unable to avoid the parked aircraft.