

Piper PA-28-140, G-LFSI

AAIB Bulletin No: 5/97 Ref: EW/G97/03/08 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-28-140, G-LFSI
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-E2A piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1970
Date & Time (UTC):	8 March 1997 at 1010 hrs
Location:	Seething Airport, Norwich, Norfolk
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - 3
Injuries:	Crew - None - Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Slight to nose landing gear
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and Night Ratings
Commander's Age:	57 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	148 hours (of which 15 were on type) Last 90 days -7 hours Last 28 days -4 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and eyewitness report

The wind was from 040° to 10 kt with a visibility of 5,000metres as the pilot made a normal approach to Runway 06 (Bitumensurface 800 x 18 metres) at Seething airport. The aircraft was seen to cross the threshold at approximately 50 feet and then to increase its pitch attitude whilst starting a rapid descent. The descent rate was temporarily arrested as the pilot applied power. The aircraft then turned right through 50° and drifted to the right of the runway, crossing the southern perimeter track at a height of between 20 to 30 feet. The aircraft, maintaining a high nose attitude, then turned left to pass to the right of the track. Eventually the aircraft touched down on the main wheels in an area of immature crop. The aircraft pitched down 45° before settling back onto all three wheels and coming to rest. All the occupants vacated the aircraft unaided and without injury.

The pilot reported that he had sighted the runway late in the approach and allowed the light crosswind to affect the aircraft's progress during the later stages of the landing.