

No: 6/86

Ref: 1b

Aircraft type and registration: Piper PA-25-235 G-BEII

No & Type of Engines: One Lycoming O-540-B2C5 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1976

Date and time (GMT): 7 May 1986 at 1115 hrs

Location: Cwmystwyth, Mid Wales

Type of flight: Aerial application

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Left main landing gear wheel stub axle broken, right main landing gear collapsed and damage to the propeller, engine cowls and right wing

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Rating (USA)

Commander's Age: 43 years

Commander's total flying experience: 9146 hours (of which 4619 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot.

During the take-off run on a soft rough grass strip the left main landing gear wheel stub axle fractured, causing the aircraft to ground loop. The pilot assessed that the cause was possibly the left main wheel striking a large stone under the top surface of the soft ground. Metallurgical examination of the stub axle indicated a single bending overload failure in the rearward direction.