

Piper J3C-65, G-AXHR

AAIB Bulletin No: 11/99 **Ref:** EW/G99/09/07 **Category:** 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper J3C-65, G-AXHR

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental A65-8F piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1943

Date & Time (UTC): 6 September 1999 at 1900 hrs

Location: Newtons Farm, Nayland, Suffolk

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - Minor

Nature of Damage: Damage to main landing gear and propeller

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 40 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 155 hours (of which 66 were on type)
Last 90 days - 12 hours
Last 28 days - 4 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was on the approach to Runway 32 at Nayland Airfield; the surface wind was variable, between 190° and 280° at about 8 kt. There was a dirt road orientated along the final approach path with trees, about 50 feet tall, either side of it. The pilot reported that, as the aircraft passed over these trees, it sank due to windshear. He was unable to apply sufficient power in time to prevent the landing gear hitting the tops of the trees. The aircraft veered left towards an adjacent field in which the pilot attempted a forced landing. To achieve this it was necessary to fly under some power lines and the main landing gear dug into the recently ploughed ground and collapsed.

Both the pilot and the passenger were wearing lap harness only; the pilot escaped without injury and passenger suffered a nosebleed. By his own volition, the pilot subsequently underwent circuit flying training with an instructor and it is his intention to fit full upper torso restraint when the aircraft is repaired.