

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-28RT-201T Turbo Cherokee Arrow IV, G-BNTC	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Continental Motors Corp TSIO-360-FB piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1981 (Serial no: 28R-8131081)	
Date & Time (UTC):	3 November 2012 at 1445 hrs	
Location:	Near Sherburn Airfield, Yorkshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Aircraft damaged beyond economic repair	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	36 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	129 hours (of which 7 were on type) Last 90 days - 23 hours Last 28 days - 8 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The pilot was on a flight from Cranfield Airport to Sherburn Airfield. Approaching Sherburn, he descended from 4,500 ft to 2,500 ft and selected landing gear down; he observed a red 'gear unsafe' indication but did not mention in his statement if there were any green 'down and locked' indications. He reselected the gear but to no avail, but then he became aware of smoke emanating from under the seats. He wanted to reduce engine power but "in panic" pulled the propeller rpm lever instead. This action meant that the engine rpm would not exceed 2,000 even with full power and because of this he

decided to conduct a forced landing in a field near his destination. During the landing the aircraft was severely damaged but the pilot and his passenger were uninjured.

It is possible that the smoke the pilot saw had come from the electro-hydraulic landing gear motor, but this has not been confirmed. During the event he made no attempt to use the emergency extension facility which would have released hydraulic pressure in the system and allowed the gear to lock down under gravity.