

AAIB Bulletin No: 3/95

Ref: EW/G95/01/02

Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-28-181 Cherokee Archer II, G-OGEM

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-360-A4M piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1981

Date & Time (UTC): 6 January 1995 at 1242 hrs

Location: Sandown Airport, Isle of Wight

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 3

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Minor to nose landing gear front fork

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 40 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 117 hours (of which 15 were on type)
Last 90 days - 7 hours
Last 28 days - 3 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft departed Coventry at 1146 hrs for a private VFR flight to Sandown, Isle of Wight. On arrival the pilot positioned the aircraft downwind for grass Runway 05. The weather was fine with good visibility and a surface wind of 300°/10kt.

The pilot reported that, on landing, the aircraft bounced three times before he applied power to go-around for a second attempt. On the subsequent landing and ground roll the aircraft swung to the right before being brought to a stop at the side of the runway. Subsequent engineering investigation revealed that the nosewheel forks were distorted.

The pilot believed that the damage was sustained on the first landing which was carried out on a very soft wet surface with some drift occurring as the aircraft touched down.