

No: 7/87

Ref: 1c

Aircraft type and registration: Cessna 172M G-BBKZ

No & Type of engines: 1 Lycoming O—320-E2D piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1973

Date and time (UTC): 2 May 1987 at 1156 hrs

Location: Exeter Airport, Devon

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 2

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Substantial damage to the nose undercarriage, engine bay, engine and propeller

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 55 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 80 hours (of which 6 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and subsequent enquiries

Following a steady approach to runway 31, the pilot anticipated a normal landing, but a high rate of descent developed during the latter stages and the aircraft struck the ground firmly on all three wheels and bounced. The pilot elected not to go around, and reselected the landing attitude. The aircraft again struck the ground firmly, this time nose wheel first, and was, with some difficulty, brought to a standstill on the runway.

The surface wind at Exeter Airport was reported as 300°/18 knots (kt), with gusts to 23 kt. When the wind is from the north-west it funnels between Exmoor and Dartmoor and can create turbulence on runway 31.

Subsequent examination revealed that the impact, probably from the second touchdown, had caused the tunnel section, which supports the control yoke assembly, to move upwards about 1 inch. This trapped the control yoke assembly between the tunnel section and the upper support bracket, severely restricting the fore and aft movement of the control column.