

Piper PA-28-140 Cherokee, G-AVLD

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/2003	Ref: EW/G2003/08/22	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-28-140 Cherokee, G-AVLD	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-E2A piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1967	
Date & Time (UTC):	7 August 2003 at 1630 hrs	
Location:	Clacton Airfield, Essex	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Nose gear detached, propeller damaged and engine shock loaded	
Commander's Licence:	FAA Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	63 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	349 hours (of which 63 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 6 hours	
	Last 28 days - 5 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Towards the end of a flight from Chichester (Goodwood) Airfield, the pilot contacted 'Clacton Radio' for a briefing prior to joining the circuit. He was advised to land on Runway 18 and to land before the public footpath, which crossed the runway; if he was unable to land by then, he was to go-around. The weather was good with a visibility of 20 km and a light southerly surface wind. Runway 18 at Clacton Airfield has a grass surface and a landing distance of 502 metres. The public footpath crosses the runway just less than half way along.

After a somewhat steep approach, the aircraft touched down close to the footpath and bounced a number of times. On the final landing, the nose gear detached and the aircraft came to rest. After making the aircraft safe, the pilot and his passenger vacated the aircraft.

Subsequent to the accident, the pilot noticed that the surface wind was varying through about 200° and was informed that this variation was typical for the time of day. Nevertheless, he considered that the accident resulted from a poor approach into a small airfield. He should have given more thought to determining a touchdown point well before the footpath and this would have resulted in a more disciplined approach. An early decision to go-around may also have recovered the situation.