

No:9/91

Ref: EW/G91/08/04

Category: 1c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Cessna 172N, G-GZDO

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming O-320-H-2AD piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1978

**Date & Time (UTC):** 4 August 1991 at 1550 hrs

**Location:** Northampton (Sywell) Aerodrome

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1 Passengers - 2

**Injuries:** Crew - None Passengers - 2 (minor)

**Nature of Damage:** Substantial to nose landing gear, propeller and forward fuselage

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 30 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 64 hours (of which 2 were on type)

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and additional telephone enquiries

The pilot had flown the Cessna 172 during his PPL training and had completed a check flight some two to three weeks before the accident flight. On arrival from Leavesden, the pilot joined overhead for a landing on the grass runway 25. The weather was fine with a surface wind of 240°/10kt and the pilot made his first approach using 40° of flap. On touchdown, after a flatter than usual approach, the aircraft was seen to bounce and continue to porpoise down the runway for about 350 metres. The pilot executed a go-around and, having confirmed the surface wind, elected to make a further approach to runway 25. This approach was made using 20° of flap and a speed of 65kt. The aircraft was seen to land nose wheel first and bounce four times before the nose landing gear collapsed on the fifth contact with the runway. There was no fire and all occupants vacated the aircraft unaided.