

**ACCIDENT**

|                                        |                                                                                           |                   |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b> | Piper PA-28-161 Cherokee Warrior II, G-EDGA                                               |                   |
| <b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>       | 1 Lycoming O-320-D3G piston engine                                                        |                   |
| <b>Year of Manufacture:</b>            | 1985                                                                                      |                   |
| <b>Date &amp; Time (UTC):</b>          | 6 July 2011 at 1505 hrs                                                                   |                   |
| <b>Location:</b>                       | RAF Halton, Buckinghamshire                                                               |                   |
| <b>Type of Flight:</b>                 | Private                                                                                   |                   |
| <b>Persons on Board:</b>               | Crew - 1                                                                                  | Passengers - 1    |
| <b>Injuries:</b>                       | Crew - None                                                                               | Passengers - None |
| <b>Nature of Damage:</b>               | Left wing outer leading edge, anti-collision and navigation lights damaged                |                   |
| <b>Commander's Licence:</b>            | Private Pilot's Licence                                                                   |                   |
| <b>Commander's Age:</b>                | 51 years                                                                                  |                   |
| <b>Commander's Flying Experience:</b>  | 280 hours (of which 102 were on type)<br>Last 90 days - 7 hours<br>Last 28 days - 3 hours |                   |
| <b>Information Source:</b>             | Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot                                      |                   |

The aircraft had completed an uneventful transit from Coventry Airport to RAF Halton, Buckinghamshire. The weather conditions at Halton were described as bumpy, with thunderstorms in the area and "gusty" wind conditions - the forecast was for a surface wind of 180°/15 gusting 25 kt. The pilot positioned his aircraft for a flapless landing on grass Runway 20, with the windsock showing a strong wind straight down the runway.

As the aircraft approached trees on final approach it was "swatted violently downwards and left", the left

wing dropped and made contact with the trees. The pilot levelled the wings and noticed, from the windsock, that the wind had veered significantly, almost 90°. He turned towards the wind and landed across the runway, stopping in the long grass beyond the side of the strip. The aircraft was taxied back to the apron and shut down normally. A subsequent inspection revealed damage to the left wing.

The pilot considered that the accident was caused by a sudden and violent change in the wind direction, perhaps caused by a nearby thunderstorm to the north.