

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-38-112 Tomahawk, G-BOHU	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-235-L2A piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1980 (Serial no: 38-80A0031)	
Date & Time (UTC):	9 August 2012 at 1029 hrs	
Location:	Elstree Aerodrome, Hertfordshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Nose landing gear and propeller damaged	
Commander's Licence:	National Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	67 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	274 hours (of which 220 were on type) Last 90 days - 14 hours Last 28 days - 5 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The aircraft was landing after a short flight from Denham to Elstree, halfway through a multi-leg trip from the aircraft's base at Swansea. On board were two qualified pilots, who were exchanging the pilot-in-command role on each leg.

The weather was fine, with a forecast wind from the north-west at 3 kt. The wind for landing was assessed as variable in direction at less than 5 kt. Runway 08 was being used, which was 651 m long and 20 m wide, with an overall down slope of 1.3%. The pilot experienced some difficulty achieving target approach speed and

executed a go-around from his first two approaches. On the third approach, the aircraft touched down at a higher speed than was intended and started a sharp yaw to the left, which the pilot was unable to control. The nosewheel departed the paved surface, causing the aircraft to decelerate and yaw further left, during which the nose landing gear collapsed and the propeller was damaged. Both occupants were uninjured and vacated the aircraft in the normal manner. The pilot considered that difficulties achieving the target approach speed and his aircraft handling during the landing were the factors involved in the outcome.