

No: 8/86

Ref: 1b

Aircraft type and registration: Piper PA-28-180 G-AVAZ

No & Type of engines: 1 Lycoming O-360-A4A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1966

Date and time (UTC): 16 July 1986 at 1000 hrs

Location: Duxford Airfield, Cambridge

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 3

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Nosewheel, propeller and engine extensively damaged

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 22 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 42 hours (of which 2 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot.

The pilot was on a cross-country and had departed from Redhill an hour earlier. He reports that after calling Duxford he joined for a right-hand circuit at 1,000 feet for a landing on runway 24, the wind was southerly 12—15 knots. As he turned finals at 700 feet he noticed a tug and glider taking off from the adjacent grass strip and became concerned that they might infringe his path.

The pilot elected to orbit on short finals before continuing his approach to the 45 metre wide runway. When re-established on final approach the aircraft had become slightly low but the pilot reports that he added power before selecting full flap. On crossing the motorway adjacent to the threshold some 'uplift' was felt and power was reduced to about 1500 rpm.

Eye witness evidence suggests that the aircraft flared at about 10 feet before dropping onto the runway. The aircraft then bounced about 5 feet into the air and landed heavily causing the nosewheel to collapse and the propeller to strike the runway. The aircraft then veered off the runway onto the grass verge and stopped. The pilot and passengers evacuated the aircraft without injury.