

No: 5/87

Ref: 1c

Aircraft type and registration: Reims Cessna F172M G-YORK

No & Type of engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-E2D piston engine

Year of Manufacture:

Date and time (UTC): 2 November 1986 at 1520 hrs

Location: Sherburn Airfield, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Yorks

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 1

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Nose landing gear failed, damage to propeller and nose structure

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 48 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 118 hours (of which 6 were on type)

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

The pilot reported that he joined the circuit from the dead side, positioning himself so as to land behind an aircraft which he initially noted to be downwind in the circuit.

After turning onto the base leg and lowering 10° of flap, the pilot turned onto final approach and performed a gentle "S" turn in order to stay well behind the preceeding aircraft. Whilst carrying out this manoeuvre, the pilot increased flap to 20°. He judged the aircraft to be slightly higher than usual as he crossed the threshold but otherwise everything seemed normal. He pulled the throttle back fully but believes he subsequently rounded out a little high, the aircraft making two gentle bounces before apparently running for a short distance along the ground.

The aircraft then suddenly left the ground, rose about 6 feet into the air and dived back onto the ground, despite the pilot's efforts to prevent both the initial upward and final downward motion. The aircraft rapidly came to a halt and the pilot correctly assumed from the aircraft nose-down attitude that the nose landing gear had broken. He therefore switched off the master/alternator switch and the magnetos and removed the key while instructing the passenger to evacuate the aircraft. The pilot then turned off the fuel and left the aircraft.