

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-28-180 Cherokee, G-DEVS

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-360-A3A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1962

Date & Time (UTC): 2 April 1995 at 1040 hrs

Location: Leicester Aerodrome

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Bent nose landing gear, propeller blade damage, right wingtip scraped

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 62 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 172 hours (of which 26 were on type)
Last 90 days - 4 hours
Last 28 days - 1 hour

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was attempting to land on Runway 28 after a flight from Blackbushe. The pilot noted that the wind was from 210 to 230° at 7 gusting 15 kt. He stated that the final approach was flown using a crabbing technique. The flare was carried out too high, the aircraft touched down heavily on the main landing gear, and became airborne again. A gust caused it to veer towards the right-hand edge of the runway. A go-around was initiated, but the aircraft touched down off the side of the runway before climbing away.

On the second landing, everything seemed satisfactory until the nosewheel touched down. The aircraft then swerved sharply to the left and the right wingtip scraped the ground. The aircraft was brought to a halt, shut down, and the passengers vacated normally.

The pilot considered that the nose landing gear had been bent during the first touchdown, and the propeller tips during the second landing. He reflected that perhaps a crabbing technique initially, changing to a low wing into wind at the final stage, would have been better.

An aftercast from the Met Office indicated that the surface wind was from 250° at 15 gusting 20 kt.