

No: 4/90

Ref: EW/G90/03/01

Category: 1c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Aviamilano Falco F8L Series 2, G-OCDS

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming O-320-A3A piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1958

**Date and Time (UTC):** 3 March 1990 at 1615 hours

**Location:** Gransden Airfield Nr Sandy, Beds

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

**Injuries:** Crew - None Passengers - None

**Nature of Damage:** Nose landing gear collapsed, engine shock loaded and propeller damaged

**Commander's Licence:** Airline Transport Pilot's Licence with Instrument Rating

**Commander's Age:** 35 years

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:** 7,300 hours (of which 15 were on type)

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

After a flight from Compton Abbas the pilot reports that he made an approach for landing on the grass runway 30 at Gransden airfield. The threshold of this runway is close to a line of trees and a house. As the aircraft descended past the trees some turbulence was encountered and a high sink rate resulted in a firm landing in the undershoot area. The nose landing gear collapsed and the aircraft slid to a halt when both occupants were able to vacate the aircraft without injury.

The surface wind at the time was 280/10 to 15 knots, and the pilot considers that the close proximity of the trees to the runway threshold probably caused some low level wind shear. Since this accident the owner of the airfield has seeded another grass runway further away from any obstructions.