

# Piper PA-28-151, G-BCIE, 6 April 1996

**AAIB Bulletin No: 7/96 Ref: EW/G96/04/04 Category: 1.3**

**Aircraft Type and Registration:**Piper PA28-151, G-BCIE

**No & Type of Engines:**1 Lycoming O-320-D2A piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:**1974

**Date & Time (UTC):**6 April 1996 at 1600 hrs

**Location:**Fife (Glenrothes) Airport, Scotland

**Type of Flight:**Private

**Persons on Board:**Crew - 1 Passengers - 3

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

**Nature of Damage:**Collapsed nose gear, bent propeller and shock-loaded engine

**Commander's Licence:**Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and Night Ratings

**Commander's Age:**39 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:**284 hours (of which 32 were on type)

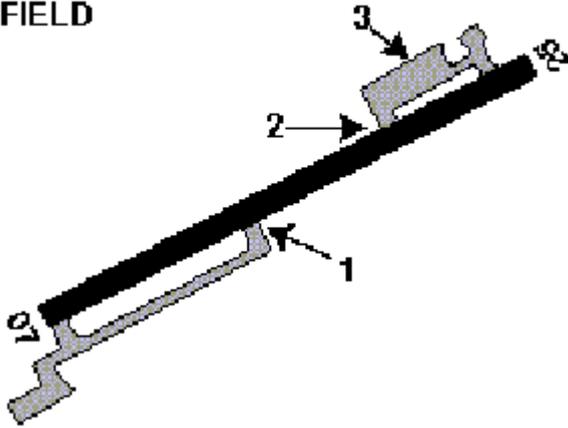
Last 90 days - 6 hours

Last 28 days - 2 hours

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

Fife (Glenrothes) airfield has a single paved runway 700 m long with four access points served by taxiways. The circuit was busy with five other aircraft when the pilot requested permission to enter the runway and backtrack. Permission was granted with a request to 'keep the speed up' and so the pilot entered the runway at position 1 shown on the diagram and taxied at a brisk pace to the next access point at position 2.

**FIFE (GLENROTHES)  
AIRFIELD**



There he turned left on to the taxiway and then right to parallel the runway at a speed he described as higher than normal. Unfortunately during this latter turn, at position 3, he inadvertently allowed the aircraft's left main wheel to run off the edge of the paved surface. At the time he was watching other aircraft in the circuit and did not immediately appreciate what had happened. The extra drag on the left main wheel yawed the aircraft to the left causing the nose wheel to run off the side of the paved surface. At this point the pilot attempted to turn right to regain the taxiway but the nose wheel sank into a ditch before striking the edge of the tarmac which caused the nose leg to collapse.