

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Reims Cessna FRA150M Aerobat, G-BFGZ	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Continental Motors Corp O-240-E piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1977	
Date & Time (UTC):	10 February 2008 at 1140 hrs	
Location:	Popham Airfield, Hampshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Collapsed nose leg, bent propeller and damaged cowling	
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	38 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	9,312 hours (of which 20 were on type) Last 90 days - 223 hours Last 28 days - 80 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

The nose gear collapsed after landing.

History of the flight

The pilot, who was very experienced on large public transport aircraft, had recently returned to light general aviation and had only 20 hours on type. Popham is an unlicensed, grass airfield with two runways: 08/26 and 03/21. Following a normal approach to Runway 08, the aircraft landed and, during the deceleration, the aircraft bounced and the nose leg collapsed. The airfield was operational again approximately 15 minutes after the accident, with no significant damage to the runway. The pilot attributed the accident to the uneven and soft runway surface.

Weather

The pilot reported the weather as being CAVOK with the wind calm. This concurs with an aftercast supplied by the Met Office, in which the wind was estimated to be from 100° at 5 kt at the time of the accident, and with no cloud below 25,000 ft.

AAIB comment

The pilot was operating in a very different environment from that which he encountered in airline operations. His lack of recent experience with light general aviation aircraft, and his few hours on the aircraft type might have been factors in this accident, particularly when the demands of grass field operations are taken into consideration.