

Piper PA-28-180, G-BBKX

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/99 Ref: EW/G99/06/23 Category: 1.3

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

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-360-A4A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1973

Date & Time (UTC): 22 June 1999 at 1039 hrs

Location: Thruxton Airfield, Hampshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial to nose landing gear and propeller

Commander's Licence: Student Pilot

Commander's Age: 28 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 65 hours (of which 65 were on type)
Last 90 days - 6 hours
Last 28 days - 5 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The student pilot was conducting a solo qualifying cross-country flight from Farnborough to Thruxton. The weather was fine with good visibility and calm winds. On arrival at Thruxton the pilot carried out a visual circuit to land on Runway 25. The aircraft touched down on the main landing gear just beyond the threshold and bounced. The pilot applied power in order to cushion the subsequent touchdown but the aircraft bounced a second time causing the nose landing gear to collapse. The aircraft veered to the left of the runway and came to rest on the adjacent grass. The pilot, who was wearing a lap and diagonal seat belt, vacated the aircraft without injury.

The pilot assessed the cause of the accident as being due to a higher than normal rate of descent on touchdown.