

No: 12/91

Ref: EW/G91/09/08

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-28-161 Cherokee Warrior II, G-BOPL
No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-D3G piston engine
Year of Manufacture: 1981
Date & Time (UTC): 12 September 1991 at 1648 hrs
Location: Swansea Airport, Wales
Type of Flight: Private
Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1
Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None
Nature of Damage: Substantial to left wing and nose landing gear
Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and Night ratings
Commander's Age: 61 years
Commander's Flying Experience: 474 hours (all on type)
Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and additional telephone enquiries

The pilot, who had not flown since 27 April 1991, hired G-BOPL for a local area flight. Having completed his preliminary drills, he taxied to the holding point for runway 10 where he carried out his run-up checks. During these checks, he noted a slight but perceptible drop in engine rpm when he selected carburettor heat. On selecting the carburettor heat control to COLD the engine rpm was restored to its previous value. After a short backtrack on the runway, the pilot started his take-off run into a 10 kt headwind. Engine performance was normal, including rpm, but the pilot reports that initial acceleration was slow due to a slight uphill gradient. At 55 kt the pilot noted a further reduction in acceleration and on passing 60 kt raised the nosewheel just clear of the runway. The aircraft remained on the runway but at 65 kt the pilot decided that the aircraft had ceased to accelerate and abandoned the take-off. By this time however there was insufficient runway remaining in which to stop the aircraft so the pilot steered the aircraft to the right onto the grass. The aircraft was halted by the airfield boundary fence where it sustained substantial damage.

Subsequent examination of the aircraft failed to reveal any defect that could have caused or contributed to the accident.