Cessna 172M, G-BSCR

AAIB Bulletin No: 2/99 Ref: EW/G98/11/21   Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Cessna 172M, G-BSCR
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-E2D piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1973
Date & Time (UTC):	29 November 1998 at 1100 hrs
Location:	Elmsett Airfield, Suffolk
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None - Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Substantial to propeller and left wingtip
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	59 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	125 hours (of which 12 were on type)
	Last 90 days - 11 hours
	Last 28 days - 4 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was on a cross country flight from Stapleford to Elmsett where the grass Runway 23/05 has a significant downslope at the south west end. The weather was fine and the reported surface wind was 310°/10 kt. On arrival at Elmsett, the pilot was informed that Runway 23 was in use. On turning finals, the pilot realised that he was high on the approach and closed the throttle. At this stage, it appeared that the aircraft would land half way along the runway but the pilot considered that the runway length of 850 metres would still afford sufficient stopping distance in the prevailing conditions. However, the short grass on the runway was wet and, on applying the brakes, there was no significant retardation, particularly when the aircraft entered the area of the runway which had a downslope. The aircraft overran the runway and entered a ploughed field where it tipped onto its nose causing the propeller to strike the ground.

The pilot considered that the cause of the accident was his misjudgement of the stopping capability of the aircraft on the wet runway and his failure to execute a go-around when it became apparent that he was high on the approach. He also considered that, given the surface wind, he should have been offered Runway 05 in order to take advantage of the up-slope at the start of that runway.