

Piper PA-28-140, G-BSSE

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/97 Ref: EW/G97/07/01 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-28-140, G-BSSE
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-E3D piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1975
Date & Time (UTC):	2 July 1997 at 1610 hrs
Location:	Netherthorpe Airfield, Nottinghamshire
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None - Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Substantial to nose landing gear with minor damage to cockpit and cabin areas
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence with IMC Rating
Commander's Age:	32 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	105 hours (all on type) Last 90 days - 6 hours Last 28 days - 2 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was to depart from Netherthorpe for its return flight to Blackpool. The weather was fine with good visibility, scattered cloud at 3,000 feet and a 10 kt westerly wind. The pilot lined up for departure on grass Runway 24 (take-off run available of 488 metres including a starter extension of 38 metres), selected one stage of flap and applied full power against the brakes for a 'short field take off'. The runway surface condition was described as 'fair with moisture' present.

The aircraft accelerated to 60 to 65 kt, was allowed to lift from the surface, but failed to climb. It then 'wallowed to the left' lost height and touched down in a field whereupon the nose landing gear collapsed. The pilot and passenger, who were wearing lap and diagonal seat belts, vacated the aircraft without injury.