

Piper PA-28-180, G-AVBS

AAIB Bulletin No: 1/98 Ref: EW/G97/11/01 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-28-180, G-AVBS
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-360-A4A piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1967
Date & Time (UTC):	1 November 1997 at 1121 hrs
Location:	St Mary's Airport, Isles Of Scilly
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - 3
Injuries:	Crew - None - Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Left wing skin and main spar disrupted by left landing gear leg collapse. Stabilator partially detached from mountings. Fuselage skin distorted. Nose leg severed. Aircraft repairable.
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	47 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	130 hours (of which 60 were on type) Last 90 days - 14 hours Last 28 days - 5 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

An approach was made to Runway 33 at St Mary's Airfield where the weather was CAVOK with a surface wind of 140°/8 kt. The aircraft was too high over the threshold so the commander carried out a go-around. ATC confirmed that Runway 09 was available and that the wind had now backed to 080°/8 kt.

A normal approach to Runway 09 was made at 80 kt with full flap selected. As the commander was about to initiate the landing flare, the aircraft sank and landed heavily approximately 20 yards short of the runway threshold. The commander, who was familiar with St Mary's Airport and had made 5 previous landings on Runway 09, assessed that the cause of the accident was unexpected wind shear at the final stage of the approach.

