

Piper L18C, G-AXLZ

AAIB Bulletin No: 11/97 Ref: EW/G97/08/11 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper L18C, G-AXLZ
No & Type of Engines:	1 Continental C90-8F piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1952
Date & Time (UTC):	14 August 1997 at 1815 hrs
Location:	Low Farm, South Walsham, Norfolk
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None - Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Aircraft destroyed
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	35 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	318 hours (of which 255 were on type) Last 90 days - 11 hours Last 28 days - 4 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft took off from the strip at South Walsham at 1745hrs for a local flight. There was no significant weather and the visibility was good in a light south easterly breeze, the surface temperature was 19_ and the dew point was 16_. The aircraft returned about 30 minutes later and the pilot positioned the aircraft to land on Runway 06 where the grass strip is 280 metres in length. During the final approach full carburettor heat was applied approximately every 75 feet and was selected off at 50 feet agl. The pilot estimated that the aircraft touched down on the threshold but he decided to initiate a go around because he was concerned at the lack of headwind and the consequent groundspeed. Full progressive throttle was applied but the engine failed to respond so the pilot initiated braking. At this stage the engine began to deliver power so the pilot then decided to attempt to fly away rather than run into the hedge at the end of the strip. However, the right wheel caught the top of the hedge causing the aircraft to land in a ditch. There was moderate damage to the cockpit area and the crew seat fixture failed, however, the pilot and the passenger were both wearing full harness assemblies and were uninjured.

