

No: 10/91

Ref: EW/G91/08/17

Category: 1c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Piper PA-28-140 Cherokee, G-BSSE

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming O-320-E3D piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1975

**Date & Time (UTC):** 16 August 1991 at 1350 hrs

**Location:** Tilstock airfield, Nr Whitchurch, Shropshire

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

**Injuries:** Crew - None Passengers - Minor

**Nature of Damage:** Both wingtips, nose and right landing gear bent, engine cowling and propeller blade damaged

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:** 32 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 103 hours (of which 4 were on type)

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

At 1255 hrs, when the aircraft took off from runway 33 at Tilstock, the wind was from 310° to 320° at about 10 kt. However, when the aircraft returned 50 minutes later, the wind had backed to 250° to 260°, still at about 10 kt. Tilstock airfield comprises a concrete strip 792 metres long and 30 metres wide which, on the day in question, was dry. Pooley's Flight Guide advises that there is often "a sizeable muck heap at one end or the other" and, on the day of the accident there was a pile of rubble at the threshold of runway 15.

On return to Tilstock, the pilot checked both windsocks and made an approach to runway 33, over a line of 40 feet high trees situated about 100 metres from the threshold. The pilot states that, because of the trees and the lack of an appreciable headwind, the aircraft touched down well into the runway and possibly a little fast. Despite his application of the footbrakes, he was unable to slow the aircraft in time to prevent it from veering to the left at the end of the landing roll and striking a pile of rubble.

Although the impact was severe, both the seatbelts and diagonal safety harnesses remained intact and there was no fire. The occupants left the aircraft through the main door without further event.