

No: 12/90

Ref: EW/G90/10/06

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Reims Cessna FA152, G-MPBH

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-235-L2C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1981

Date and Time (UTC): 13 October 1990 at 1505 hrs

Location: Compton Abbas Airfield, Wiltshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Nose landing gear collapsed - propeller bent and engine shock loaded

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 58 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 134 hours (all on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was on a flight from Biggin Hill to Compton Abbas. The handling pilot reports that after an uneventful cross-country flight he joined the circuit at Compton Abbas on the base leg for runway 08. He was advised to land one quarter of the way down the runway due to turbulence. The Landing Distance Available on this runway is 803 metres. Bearing in mind the warning of turbulence, the pilot decided to keep the base leg "tight" and turned onto the final approach at about 450 feet above the airfield level. As the aircraft reached the aiming point, at an airspeed of 45 to 50 knots, the pilot reduced the power to idle. Initial contact was firm and the aircraft bounced. On the second contact the nose landing gear collapsed and the aircraft slid to a halt. Both pilots were wearing full restraint harnesses which held and, having made the switches safe, they vacated the aircraft without injury. The weather at the time was fine with a surface wind of 150°/10 knots.