

Maule MXT-7-180, G-CROL

AAIB Bulletin No: 7/97 Ref: EW/G97/05/03 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Maule MXT-7-180, G-CROL
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-360-C1F piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1990
Date & Time (UTC):	3 May 1997 at 1545 hrs
Location:	Heron Hall, Brentwood, Essex
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None - Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to landing gear, propeller and right wing
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	63 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	137 hours (of which 125 were on type) Last 90 days - 13 hours Last 28 days - 4 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot had been airborne for 20 minutes practising circuits at his private airstrip; the weather was good and the surface wind was calm. The airstrip was approximately 400 metres long and orientated North/South. Throughout the flight, the pilot had been using the southerly runway for his circuits. This runway had a surface of short dry grass and had a ditch at right angle to, and just short of, the threshold; there was also a small mound running along each side of the ditch.

The pilot made a normal approach to the southerly runway but, as he flared his aircraft at the threshold, the right landing gear struck the mound; the gear leg broke off and the nose gear then collapsed as it contacted the ground. G-CROL came to rest approximately 50 metres from the threshold. The pilot considered that he initiated his flare too early which resulted in the inadvertent contact with the mound.