

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Gardan GY80-160 Horizon, G-ASZS	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming 0-320-B3B piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1965	
Date & Time (UTC):	11 August 2007 at 1439 hrs	
Location:	Wellesbourne Mountford Aerodrome, Warwickshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to propeller and engine shock-loaded	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	55 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	249 hours (of which 111 were on type) Last 90 days - 4 hours Last 28 days - 1 hour	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

The pilot became distracted due to heavy traffic in the circuit and neglected to lower the landing gear prior to landing. The aircraft sustained minor damage in the wheels-up landing and the pilot was uninjured.

History of the flight

After a short flight in the local area, the pilot returned to Wellesbourne with the intention of carrying out circuit practice. Runway 18 was active and weather conditions at the time were good, with the visibility in excess of 10 km and a light, variable wind. The circuit was busy at the time, requiring aircraft to extend the downwind leg to allow other aircraft to take off.

The pilot completed two successful 'touch-and-go'

circuits and, on the third circuit, the aircraft ahead performed a go-around. The pilot allowed himself to become distracted by this and other traffic and neglected to lower the undercarriage. He touched down with the landing gear up but, as the wheels protrude partially when the gear is retracted, he was able to maintain control of the aircraft and steer it onto the grass to the right of the asphalt runway. The only visible damage was to the propeller, which struck the ground and abruptly stopped the engine. The pilot was uninjured.

The aircraft is equipped with a warning horn designed to sound when the engine speed is below 1,600 rpm whenever the landing gear is up. The pilot reported that the horn failed to operate on this occasion.