

Cessna 172N, G-GZDO

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/2002	Ref: EW/G2002/07/27	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Cessna 172N, G-GZDO	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-H2AD piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1978	
Date & Time (UTC):	22 July 2002 at 1158 hrs	
Location:	Elstree Aerodrome, Hertfordshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Substantial to nose landing gear, forward fuselage and propeller	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	47 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	127 hours (of which 48 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 6 hours	
	Last 28 days - 6 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The aircraft had departed from Elstree earlier in the morning for a local navigation exercise. On return to the airfield, the approach was made to Runway 26, with a surface wind from 260° at 10 kt. On final approach, with the speed stable and full flap deployed, the pilot became aware that there was another, faster, aircraft behind on final approach. This second aircraft carried out a go-around shortly before G-GZDO touched down.

The pilot of G-GZDO reported that she had flared a little early, which caused the aircraft to sink onto the runway and bounce. The pilot felt unable to go-around because of the possible proximity of the other traffic, so she attempted to control the bounce and re-land. However, during the subsequent second bounce, the nose lowered and the aircraft sustained damage to the nose landing gear and the propeller contacted the runway surface.

The pilot commented that the presence of a faster aircraft behind, on the approach, was a distraction.