

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Pulsar, G-MCMS	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 582 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1993 (Serial no: PFA 202-11982)	
Date & Time (UTC):	26 May 2015 at 1550 hrs	
Location:	Pembrey Airport, Carmarthenshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Propeller, spinner, lower front fuselage, wheels and wheel fairings, leading edge and tip of one wing	
Commander's Licence:	National Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	74 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	832 hours (of which 3 were on type) Last 90 days - 3 hours Last 28 days - 3 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and enquiries by the AAIB	

Synopsis

The aircraft was low on the approach to Runway 04 such that the main undercarriage clipped the top of the airfield boundary fence, 66 m from the displaced threshold, before coming to rest on the runway strip. The pilot was not injured.

History of the flight

On the approach to Runway 04 at Pembrey, the pilot encountered turbulence over the forested area to the south of the airport and possibly some sink in the final stages of the approach. The main undercarriage wheels clipped the top of the airport's boundary chain link fence, which was a little under 6 ft high and, at its closest, 66 m from the displaced threshold of Runway 04. The aircraft came to rest on the runway strip short of the threshold and the pilot, who had been using a full harness, exited the aircraft unharmed.

Approach surface

The CAA's UK Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP) states that the Runway 04 at Pembrey has a TODA of 797 m and is therefore classed as a Code 1 runway. The CAA's CAP 168 – *Licensing of Aerodromes* – provides guidance on how to meet aerodrome licensing requirements, which includes guidance on the 'approach surface' – an inclined plane preceding the threshold and runway strip that must be clear of obstacles. For a

Code 1 runway, such as Pembrey, the runway strip is 30 m and the approach surface is 5% (1:20); therefore, at the boundary, 36 m from the start of the runway strip, obstacles should be no higher than 1.8 m or 6 ft. The airfield owner has subsequently measured and confirmed that the fence in question is slightly less than the 6 ft height permitted.