

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-32R-300 Lance, N83VK	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming IO-540-K1G5D piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1977	
Date & Time (UTC):	28 October 2016 at 1017 hrs	
Location:	Stapleford Aerodrome, Essex	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to nose landing gear, propeller and possible shock-loading to engine	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	39 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	75 hours (of which 14 were on type) Last 90 days - 3 hours Last 28 days - 0 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and additional enquiries made by the AAIB	

The pilot made a normal approach to Runway 21L at Stapleford, a predominantly grass runway 1,077 m long with a 600 m long, but less than half-width, asphalt insert situated at the north-east end of the runway. The wind was from 260° at 9 kt and the runway condition was dry.

The pilot reported that touchdown on the asphalt surface was normal but, during the landing roll, the aircraft began to drift slowly to the left side of the asphalt. He did not attempt to arrest this drift, thinking that, as the aircraft was slowing normally, he would leave the paved surface at a low speed. However, as the aircraft crossed onto the grass surface, the nose landing gear fractured and the propeller struck the ground. The pilot suffered no injuries during the accident and was able to exit the aircraft normally.