

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Cessna 152, G-WACF	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-235-L2C piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1980 (Serial no: 152-84852)	
Date & Time (UTC):	4 July 2017 at 0900 hrs	
Location:	Wycombe Air Park, Buckinghamshire	
Type of Flight:	Training	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to nose landing gear, propeller and engine mounting	
Commander's Licence:	Student	
Commander's Age:	23 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	38 hours (of which 38 were on type) Last 90 days - 18 hours Last 28 days - 7 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

The aircraft's nose landing gear partially collapsed and the propeller struck the runway surface, following a bounced landing by a student pilot.

History of the flight

This was the student pilot's third solo flight and it was undertaken immediately after a dual check with a flight instructor, during which the student had completed two circuits that were assessed as "above average". Weather conditions were good and instructor watched from a position nearby, as the student completed her first circuit and approached to land on the asphalt Runway 24, with a slight crosswind from the left.

The approach appeared stable until, at approximately 100 ft aal, the student started to make over-corrections to the aircraft's pitch attitude, while trying to achieve the correct airspeed. The instructor observed the aircraft pitching up and down and saw the mainwheels touchdown before the aircraft bounced, in a nose-up attitude, to approximately 15 ft aal. However, the nose then dropped, the aircraft landed nosewheel-first and it porpoised along the runway while the groundspeed reduced.

The student was aware that, after bouncing, she pulled the control column back, without increasing power, but is unsure what action she took next. Her recollection is of the aircraft

descending and that, once on the ground, it porpoised before she applied the brakes and moved clear of the runway. On instruction from air traffic control, she subsequently stopped the aircraft and shut it down (Figure 1).



Figure 1

G-WACF, with damage to the propeller and to the nose landing gear apparent

Student's assessment

In retrospect the pilot believes she was unable to control the airspeed adequately during the last part of the approach and, when the aircraft bounced, she panicked slightly. She had been trained to go around in such circumstances, and she realises that this is what she ought to have done.