

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-24-250 Commanche, N7832P	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-540 Series piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1962 (Serial no: 24-3052)	
Date & Time (UTC):	18 February 2018 at 1330 hrs	
Location:	Chiltern Air Park, Oxfordshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to propeller and fuselage underside	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	37 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	456 hours (of which 21 were on type) Last 90 days - 0 hours Last 28 days - 0 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The pilot had departed from Benson airfield to carry out circuits at Chiltern Air Park which is located 4 nm south of Benson. He had spoken to the owner of Chiltern Air Park to obtain permission and check the runway conditions. After joining the circuit at Chiltern he omitted to select the landing gear down during his downwind checks. During the base and final legs he was focussed on avoiding 'noise abatement' areas, and although he recalled performing a 'reds, blues, greens'¹ 'touch drill' check, he did not consciously check that the green landing gear lights were on. The aircraft touched down lightly on the grass and came to rest on its underside.

The pilot stated that due to the short distance between Benson and Chiltern it was a very quick transition from climb-out, departure checks before needing to focus on joining the circuit. His focus on maintaining a good look-out for other aircraft and correctly joining the circuit contributed to him rushing his downwind checks. He thinks he said the word "undercarriage" on the downwind check but carried out a 'touch drill' without manually selecting the gear down.

Footnote

¹ The 'reds, blues, greens' check on finals is to check that the red mixture lever and blue propeller speed lever are set to full forward and that three landing gear lights are illuminated green to indicate that all three landing gear legs are down and locked.