

Piper PA-28-140, G-AVUU, 17 June 1996

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/96 Ref: EW/G96/06/24 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-28-140, G-AVUU

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-E2A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1968

Date & Time (UTC): 17 June 1996 at 1430 hrs

Location: Thurrock Airfield, Essex

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: No damage to aircraft. Minor damage to roof of passing car

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 34 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 213 hours (of which 204 were on type)

Last 90 days - 11 hours

Last 28 days - 3 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft had departed Southend Airport for circuit flying at Thurrock Airfield, Essex. This airfield has a grass Runway, 09/27, which is 650 metres in length; and the pilot had also been reminded during the briefing about the power lines approximately 800 metres to the East and telephone wires in the undershoot area for Runway 09.

When the aircraft approached Thurrock the pilot noted that the windsock indicated a light easterly wind and he positioned himself for an approach to Runway 09. During the approach he realised that he was too high and initiated a Go Around at 300 feet agl. The second approach was satisfactory but culminated in a very hard touchdown. The pilot realised that there was by then insufficient runway remaining for him to stop, so he applied full power, reset the flaps and climbed away. He returned immediately to Southend Airport for a visual inspection of the undercarriage which he thought may have been damaged during the landing at Thurrock. The visual inspection by ATC personnel in the tower indicated no apparent damage and the subsequent landing was uneventful. A maintenance check confirmed no damage to the aircraft which was returned to service.

Meanwhile, the driver of a car heading north on the A128 had heard a loud thump on the car roof as she passed abeam Thurrock Airfield. Subsequent investigation confirmed that the car roof had been struck by the tyres of the aircraft during the initial climb out following the hard landing.