

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/94

Ref: EW/G94/06/18

Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-28-235 Cherokee Pathfinder, G-BAMM

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-540-B485 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1965

Date & Time (UTC): 19 June 1994 at 1310 hrs

Location: Spilsted Farm, Sedlescombe, Sussex

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Nosewheel assembly collapsed, propeller bent, cowling damaged and engine shock-loaded

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 58 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 110 hours (of which 38 were on type)
Last 90 days - 5 hours
Last 28 days - 4 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft approached grass Runway 34 at Spilsted Farm which has an upward slope at the threshold. The pilot reported that he made a normal approach at 80 mph with full flap deployed. In the flare at about 15 feet agl the aircraft suddenly sank rapidly. An increase in pitch attitude failed to arrest the rapid descent and the aircraft landed heavily in long grass some three metres short of the prepared surface. As the nosewheel hit the ground it collapsed and the aircraft came to rest within 20 metres of forward travel.

The pilot attributed the accident to windshear; at the time the weather was fine with a surface wind of 070°/10 to 15 kt.