

**AAIB Bulletin No:** 7/93

**Ref:** EW/G93/05/03

**Category:** 1c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Piper PA-23-250 Aztec, G-ODIR

**No & Type of Engines:** 2 Lycoming IO-540-C4B5 piston engines

**Year of Manufacture:** 1968

**Date & Time (UTC):** 3 May 1993 at 1550 hrs

**Location:** Barton Airfield, Manchester

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1                      Passengers - 3

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - None

**Nature of Damage:** Bent nose landing gear brackets, damage to underside of nose, propeller blade strikes, engines shock loaded

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence with IMC and Night Ratings

**Commander's Age:** 42 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 710 hours (of which 174 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 16 hours  
Last 28 days - 7 hours

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft joined right hand downwind for the grass Runway 27 at Barton after a flight from Southport. The surface wind was 300°/10 kt. The landing gear was lowered normally, and a 'three greens' safe indication was obtained. The commander reported that the final approach was flown at an indicated airspeed of 80 mph, and that during the landing flare, the landing gear unsafe warning horn sounded. The commander considered that he was committed to land, and the nose landing gear collapsed during the landing roll. The aircraft came to rest approximately half way along the 626 metre long runway. There was no fire, and all occupants quickly vacated the aircraft by the normal means.

Subsequent checks by engineering staff found that the landing gear retracted and extended normally, and that the only damage to the operating mechanism was the bent brackets. One engineer, who was an eyewitness, reported that the aircraft seemed to touch down in a relatively flat attitude and it is not known positively whether the brackets were bent prior to the landing on the relatively rough grass surface of the runway.