

No: 12/90

Ref: EW/G90/10/10

Category: 1c

<b>Aircraft Type and Registration:</b>	Piper PA-46-310P, G-BPZF	
<b>No &amp; Type of Engines:</b>	1 Continental TSIO-520-BE1 piston engine	
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	1984	
<b>Date and Time (UTC):</b>	20 October 1990 at 1426 hrs	
<b>Location:</b>	Fairoaks Airport, Surrey	
<b>Type of Flight:</b>	Private	
<b>Persons on Board:</b>	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
<b>Injuries:</b>	Crew - None	Passengers - None
<b>Nature of Damage:</b>	Propeller tips and lower engine cowlings	
<b>Commander's Licence:</b>	Private Pilot's Licence	
<b>Commander's Age:</b>	44 years	
<b>Commander's Total Flying Experience:</b>	1,310 hours (of which 10 were on type)	
<b>Information Source:</b>	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Following a flight that originated from Blackbushe the pilot reports that he intended to carry out a practice short field landing on runway 06 at Fairoaks aerodrome. The declared landing distance available on that runway is 728 metres. Cockpit checks were completed and, to the best of his recollection, the pilot selected the landing gear lever fully down. The approach and landing were considered to be normal and moderately heavy braking was used to assess the stopping distance. The aircraft was then 'cleaned up' and taxied off the runway.

Shortly after entering the taxi-way, and whilst at a speed described as walking pace, the hydraulic pump warning light illuminated and the nose landing gear retracted. The propeller contacted the hard surface, and the engine was immediately shut down as the aircraft came to a halt. After the incident the pilot reports noticing that the landing gear selector was resting about ¼ inch above its lower stop, although there is no doubt that the landing gear was fully down during the landing. Further investigation is being carried out.