

Piper PA-28-161, G-BUFH

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/2002	Ref: EW/G2002/08/06	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-28-161, G-BUFH	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-D3G piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1984	
Date & Time (UTC):	7 August 2002 at 1652 hrs	
Location:	Bourn Airfield, Cambridgeshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Minor damage to left flap and aileron	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilots Licence	
Commander's Age:	39 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	121 hours (of which 116 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 3 hours	
	Last 28 days - 3 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The pilot was unable to establish two way contact with Bourn A/G radio as he approached the airfield so he flew over the windsock to determine the most suitable runway for landing. The wind appeared to be 120°/5 kt so he decided to make an approach to Runway 19. This had a dry asphalt surface, a published landing distance of 633 metres and a 1% down slope. The first approach was judged to be too high so the pilot went around and positioned for a second attempt. He judged this to be high and fast but, having side-slipped to lose the excess height, he elected to continue. The aircraft floated down the runway and the pilot estimated that he landed 200-300 metres from the threshold. Ground observers estimated the touchdown point at 400 metres from the threshold. The pilot quickly realised that he would be unable to stop by the end of the runway and being unsure of the poor overrun surface, attempted to steer to the right, onto the taxiway at the far end of the runway. In doing so the aircraft's left main wheel departed the asphalt surface and dropped into a ditch, rotating the aircraft to the left and stopping any further motion. The only damage sustained were some minor dents to the port flap and aileron.

The pilot, used to landing on a 1,869 metre runway, plans to refresh his short field landing technique.