No: 4/92

Ref: EW/G92/02/01

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration:

Reims Cessna F152, G-BHIN

No & Type of Engines:

1 Lycoming O-235-L2C piston engine

Year of Manufacture:

1980

Date & Time (UTC):

8 February 1992 at 1450 hrs

Location:

Little Wauldby Farm, Swanland, East Yorkshire

Type of Flight:

Private

Persons on Board:

Crew - 1

Passengers - 1

Injuries:

Crew - None

Passengers - None

Nature of Damage:

The wings, fin, nosewheel, cabin roof and windscreen

sustained impact damage to varying degrees

Commander's Licence:

Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age:

55 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 169 hours (of which 166 were on type)

Information Source:

Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

During a flight from Doncaster to Scarborough, via York, the visibility gradually deteriorated and when, after 20-30 minutes, it had reduced to less than half a mile, the pilot decided to make a precautionary landing to avoid becoming disorientated. The wind was 220°/35 kt and the pilot selected as the landing field what appeared to be the only green field in the area. The field was flat, approximately 500 metres long in a north/south direction and bounded on the threshold end by some low trees and a hedge.

The pilot briefed the passenger and, when established on the approach path, selected full flap and switched off the fuel and electrical circuits. A satisfactory touchdown was made 150-200 metres into the field but, as the nose wheel contacted the ground, the aircraft tipped first onto its nose and then onto its back. The pilot and passenger unfastened their diagonal and lapstrap harnesses, which withstood the impact forces, and climbed out of the aircraft without assistance.

The field, which had appeared firm and green to the pilot, was in fact an early growth of oil seed rape in very soft ground.