

No: 12/90

Ref: EW/G90/10/11

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA-28-161, G-BRBA

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming O-320-D3G piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1979

Date and Time (UTC): 23 October 1990 at 1735 hrs

Location: Goodwood (Chichester) Airfield, Sussex

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Minor damage to propeller

Commander's Licence: Student Pilot

Commander's Age: 29 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 116 hours (all on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was briefed for a solo night exercise as part of a course leading to the issue of a Commercial Pilot's Licence. The taxi path to the in-use grass runway was along an out-of-use grass runway marked by glim lamps and reflective markers. On approaching the holding point, the pilot turned his aircraft to the right to position for his power check. As he did so, he realised that he was moving away from the lighted area and continued the turn to regain the runway. The nose of the aircraft dipped and the pilot heard a scraping noise as the aircraft stopped. The pilot increased power but the aircraft failed to move. The aircraft had taxied onto a field of newly sprouted crop adjacent to the manoeuvring area which, by the light of the taxi light, was indistinguishable from the prepared surface of the airfield. The nose wheel had sunk into the soft ground and allowed the propeller to penetrate several inches below the surface.