No: 5/89 Ref: EW/G89/03/08 Category: 1c

Aircraft Type

and Registration: Cessna F152, G-BHCP

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming 0-235-L2C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1979

Date and Time (UTC): 27 March 1989 at 1545 hrs

Location: Sherburn in Elmet

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Substantial

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 56 years

Commander's Total

Flying Experience: 106 hours (of which all were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and AAIB

telephone enquiries

The aircraft had taken off from Sherburn in Elmet and carried out 3 circuits. The aircraft was then flown north east to overhead Scarborough, Flamborough Head, and then towards Beverley and the Humber Bridge.

In the vicinity of Beverley, the visibility deteriorated such that the pilot could not identify the Humber estuary. He was unable to obtain a radar service and decided that a precautionary landing would be prudent. He returned northwards to an airfield he had passed earlier in the flight, which unknown to him was Leconfield, currently disused. After overflying the airfield a number of times, and observing cones and other obstructions on the runways, a perimeter strip was found that appeared to be suitable. However, just before touch-down, an obstruction described as a kerb was noticed and a go-around was carried out. During the go-around the pilot felt a slight collision and continued south where, by this time, the weather improved sufficiently for him to return to Sherburn. The aircraft was inspected as far as was possible from inside the cockpit by the pilot and passenger, but no damage was observed.

The pilot could not establish RTF contact with Sherburn, and carried out the standard procedure before making an approach to land. Just before touch-down, fuel and ignition were turned off as a precautionary measure. As the speed decayed after landing, the nose sank down and damage occurred

to the propeller, nosewheel leg, engine bearers, bulkhead and the engine was shock-loaded. The nosewheel and its fork attachment were found at Leconfield. The occupants who were wearing upper torso restraint, were uninjured.

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