

No: 1/91

Ref: EW/G90/11/08

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Champion 7FC, G-ARAS

No & Type of Engines: 1 Continental C90-12F piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1960

Date and Time (UTC): 24 November 1990 at 1445 hrs

Location: Clipgate Farm, near Canterbury, Kent

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to nose landing gear and propeller; general damage to engine and airframe

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 40 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 71 hours (of which 26 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The landing runway was a grass strip 500 yards long and designated 20. The surface was wet and the wind was 180°/5 - 10 kt. There was a small wood in the undershoot area; the taller trees were reported to be 30 to 40 feet high. The pilot reported that, because of this, the normal touchdown point was between a quarter and a third of the way along the runway. This implied an approach angle of about 6°.

Following a right-hand circuit and approach, the aircraft was flared for landing. The pilot felt that the flare was not correct. The main wheels touched the ground and, in anticipation of a bounce, he moved the control column back and increased power slightly. However, the aircraft did not bounce but pitched forward onto the nose wheel which caused the nose landing gear to collapse. It came to rest in a short distance and the pilot, who was wearing diagonal upper torso restraint, escaped without injury, having first carried out the basic shutdown checks.

It was reported that the initial impact was 50 yards in from the runway threshold. To achieve this an approach angle of more than 15° would have been required.