

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-32RT-300 Cherokee Lance II, G-RHHT	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming IO-540-K1G5D piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1978	
Date & Time (UTC):	14 July 2009 at 1045 hrs	
Location:	Spanhoe Airfield, Northamptonshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to the propeller, the underside of fuselage and a dent in the wing	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	52 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	311 hours (of which 95 were on type) Last 90 days - 5 hours Last 28 days - 1 hour	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

Synopsis

Following an uneventful approach and normal flare the propeller struck the runway with the landing gear retracted and the aircraft skidded on its lower fuselage for about 400 yards before it came to rest.

History of the flight

The pilot carried out a daily check of the aircraft prior to starting the engine and taxiing to the refuelling point, where 69 litres were uplifted. Following post-start-up and pre-departure checks, the pilot, with ATC approval, took off and set course for his destination airfield. When the aircraft was approximately 3 miles from

the destination airfield he carried out the 'downwind checks', which should have included lowering the landing gear. At about 300 ft on final approach the pilot selected the final stage of flap but, retrospectively, cannot remember checking to see that the three green landing gear 'down and locked' lights were illuminated. As the pilot flared the aircraft the propeller hit the runway and the aircraft skidded on its lower fuselage in a fairly straight line for about 400 yards before coming to a halt. This was not before the right wing impacted a low-level light, which spun the aircraft to the right. The pilot exited the aircraft without injury.