

Aircraft type and registration: Piper PA 28-235 G-BAMM

No & Type of engines: One Lycoming O-540-B2B5 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1965

Date and time (UTC): 28 February 1987 at 1500 hrs

Location: Llandgela airfield, North Wales

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 2

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Wing leading edge and right main landing gear leg damaged.

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 36 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 253 hours (of which 72 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot.

The 580 metre runway 05/23 at Llandgela is grass which is basically flat but has an estimated downslope of 3% at the 23 threshold end. On the day of the accident the grass was cut short and, apart from the 05 threshold which was described as wet, was classified as only damp. The reported wind was 220° at 3—4 knots.

The pilot carried out a full run-up check on the engine and states that it was performing normally. Following this, he positioned the aircraft some 80—100 metres into the threshold of runway 05, in order to avoid the wet area, and having re-checked that full power was achieved, released the brakes and began the take-off run.

When it became apparent that the aircraft was not going to attain take-off speed, there was insufficient runway remaining to avoid collision with a fence at the far end. The upper-torso restraints of the three occupants held on impact and there was no fire.

Subsequent examination of the aircraft and its take-off performance has revealed no explanation for this accident.