

No: 10/86

Ref: 1b

Aircraft type and registration: Piper PA-28-180 G-ATRU

No & Type of engines: 1 Lycoming O-360-A4A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1966

Date and time (UTC): 11 August 1986 at 1100 hrs

Location: Old Warden aerodrome, Bedfordshire

Type of flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 1

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — None

Nature of damage: Substantial damage to all portions of the aircraft

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 61 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 610 hours (of which 28 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Following an uneventful flight from Luton Airport, the aircraft joined the circuit to land on runway 04 at Old Warden aerodrome. Runway 04 is 600 metres long and the surface is grass which, on the day of the accident, was wet. It is reported that there was a light easterly wind with no significant weather and half cloud cover at 1200 feet.

Because of the short runway and the wet grass, the pilot attempted to make a short field landing, and to touchdown as close to the runway threshold as possible. As the aircraft crossed the airfield boundary, following an intentionally shallow approach path, the left mainwheel struck the top of a gate on the side of a cart track forming that boundary.

The aircraft continued through the fence on the other side of the cart track and on to the runway threshold where it slewed off to the left.

The pilot turned off the fuel and the electrical master switch and both occupants evacuated the aircraft without further incident.