

Aircraft: Piper PA25-235 Pawnee G-BFEW (Light single engined fixed wing aircraft)

Year of manufacture: 1977

Date and time (GMT): 21 May 1983 at 1128 hrs

Location: Chipping Norton Aerodrome

Type of flight: Aerial application

Persons on board: Crew - 1 Passengers - Nil

Injuries: Crew - Nil Passengers - N/A

Nature of damage: Minor damage to main undercarriage, propeller, engine cowlings and mainplanes

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 40 years

Commander's total flying experience: 7700 hours (of which 4200 hours were on type)

The pilot was using a concrete perimeter track for take-off that had an available length of approximately 375 metres and was into wind. On his eleventh take-off, soon after the aircraft became airborne, the wheel passed through a crop of standing wheat which caused the aircraft to decelerate and sink onto a stone wall; this carried away the spreader bar and damaged the undercarriage. The pilot diverted to his maintenance base where the undercarriage collapsed on landing.