

Piper PA-18-135 (Modified), G-BWOR

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/97 Ref: EW/G97/07/14 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Piper PA-18-135 (Modified), G-BWOR
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-A2B piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1952
Date & Time (UTC):	19 July 1997 at 1135 hrs
Location:	Roughay Farm, Nr Southampton, Hampshire
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None - Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Engine shock loaded with substantial damage to propeller. Further damage to wings and rudder
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	53 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	113 hours (of which 16 were on type) Last 90 days - 12 hours Last 28 days - 7 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft departed Old Sarum for the strip at Roughay Farm which the pilot had visited before. The meteorological conditions were good with no significant cloud, excellent visibility, calm winds and the surface temperature was estimated to be +20_C. The pilot positioned the aircraft for a landing on Runway 03 which had a grass surface, was 880 metres long, 20 metres wide and was flanked by wheat fields. The approach was normal, however, during the flare, with the throttle closed and at an airspeed estimated by the pilot to be about 40 kt, the right wing dropped, the right wing tip caught in the standing crop and the aircraft came to rest inverted. The pilot believed that a thermal updraft from the wheat field had abruptly lifted the left wing and, despite the application of full throttle, he was unable to prevent the accident.