

Piper PA28R-200-2, G-DMCS, 9 June 1996

AAIB Bulletin No: 8/96 Ref: EW/G96/06/09 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Piper PA28R-200-2, G-DMCS

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming IO-360-C1C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1976

Date & Time (UTC): 9 June 1996 at 1850 hrs

Location: Shacklewell Airfield, Empingham

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Right main undercarriage collapsed and some associated wrinkling of wing skin.

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence with IMC Rating

Commander's Age: 65 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 2119 hours (of which 470 were on type)

Last 90 days - 26 hours

Last 28 days - 10 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The airfield at Shacklewell consists of a grass strip 606 meters long and 14.6 meters wide oriented 060°/240°. The field containing the airstrip was planted with rape up to the edge of the runway and this crop had grown to a height of approximately 1.5 meters. On the day of the accident, the surface wind was 190°/ 10 kts and the pilot was using Runway 24. After landing, the left wing touched the rape and the aircraft was dragged into the crop to the side of the runway. The pilot attributed the accident to a masking of the wind effect by the rape resulting in over compensation for drift during the final stage of the approach so that the aircraft touched down on the left of the strip. Shadow cast by the crop onto the grass strip gave the pilot a misleading impression of the runway.