

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/94

Ref: EW/G94/07/13

Category: 2.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Enstrom F-28C-2-UK, G-BHAX

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming HIO-360-E1AD piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1979

Date & Time (UTC): 11 July 1994 at 1835 hrs

Location: Birch Tree Farm, Cudworth, South Yorkshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 2

Injuries: Crew - Minor Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Aircraft destroyed

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 37 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 245 hours (of which 150 were on type)
Last 90 days - 15 hours
Last 28 days - 5 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and
AAIB enquiries

The helicopter had been operating in the area of Birch Tree Farm for about 45 minutes before the accident. Weather conditions were good with a light and variable surface wind, a surface temperature of 26°C, dewpoint 14°C and a QNH of 1017 mb. The pilot landed and picked up two passengers with rotors running. This brought the AUW to about 2270 lb, some 80 lb below the maximum permissible weight of 2350 lb. The helicopter then lifted off normally and began to transition over falling terrain when the pilot detected a power loss. With the helicopter descending he elected to land ahead during which the helicopter struck the sloping ground with a rotor blade, landing heavily and causing the tail boom to separate. The occupants evacuated the aircraft without difficulty and the pilot sustained a cut to his head from the windscreen, this was the only injury.

Examination of the helicopter and engine by the maintenance organisation showed no reason for loss of power, turbocharger failure was suspected but no engine or drive defect of any kind was found. The pilot states in his report that the reduction in ground effect due to the sloping ground was a factor.