

**AAIB Bulletin No:** 9/95                      **Ref:** EW/G95/07/14                      **Category:** 2.3

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Enstrom F-28A, G-BALT

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming HIO-360-C1A piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1972

**Date & Time (UTC):** 20 July 1995 at 1930 hrs

**Location:** Flint Cottage, South Mimms, Hertfordshire

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1                      Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** Damage to right skid; main rotor blades damaged beyond repair

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence (Helicopters)

**Commander's Age:** 52 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 250 hours (of which 5 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 5 hours  
Last 28 days - 5 hours

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

While in transit, at 500 feet agl, severe vibration was experienced through the cyclic control. The onset of the vibration was sudden. The pilot decided to land as soon as possible and headed for nearby Flint Cottage where he had landed many times in the past. The approach went well until about 20 feet agl when the helicopter turned and dropped rapidly. It landed heavily and tilted initially to the right before coming to rest on its left side. The pilot was released from his lap and diagonal harness by two bystanders who then took him to hospital; he reported that he had, however, suffered no injury.

The pilot considered the severity of the cyclic vibration may have caused him to rush the landing which was made into long grass. He could not account for the vibration but had considered two possibilities, a bird strike or the loosening of the rotor leading edge protective tape. There was no evidence of the former and, although the leading edge tape had become detached, he thought this could have been a result of the severe disruption of the blades in the impact. No engineering examination of the wreckage was made and it is not intended to have the helicopter repaired in the near future.