

No: 9/91

Ref: EW/G91/07/14

Category: 2c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Westland Bell 47G-3B-1, G-BFJN

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming TVO-435-B1A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1965

Date & Time (UTC): 7 July 1991 at 1215 hrs

Location: Cliffe Bank, Selby, North Yorkshire

Type of Flight: Commercial

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Severe damage to aircraft and some damage to crops

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence (H)

Commander's Age: 43 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 5,700 hours (of which 3,000 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was engaged on crop spraying in clear conditions with a surface wind estimated by the pilot to have varied from light and variable to 7 kt from the north north east. Having first surveyed the target field, the pilot began a low power descent at about 60 kt IAS to make his first run into wind. As he approached application height he realised that the power required to arrest his descent was greater than the power available and that ground contact was unavoidable. Having used most of the available collective pitch to avoid a heavy contact with the ground, he was unable to flare sufficiently to reduce his ground speed to that needed for a successful landing. The right hand skid dug in at high speed, causing total loss of control, and the aircraft came to rest on its side some 60 metres from first ground contact. The pilot attributed the accident to an error of judgement.