

No: 2/91

Ref: EW/G90/12/04

Category: 2b

Aircraft Type and Registration: Aerospatiale AS355F1, G-BPRJ

No & Type of Engines: 2 Allison 250-C20F turboshaft engines

Year of Manufacture: 1982

Date and Time (UTC): 4 December 1990 at 1535 hrs

Location: Near Craig Y Castell, Black Mountains, South Wales

Type of Flight: Commercial (aerial photography)

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Minor damage to right side landing skid and cross tube

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

Commander's Age: 46 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 5,752 hours rotary wing (of which 104 hours were on type)

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

The helicopter was being operated for the purpose of aerial photography for a television corporation. The pilot reports that he understood that the television crew's requirement was for the camera operator to film an articulated truck approaching the helicopter along an unfenced road, which had been closed previously to other traffic. It was his intention to be on the road whilst the truck approached from his right side and then to lift off and climb vertically when it was within about 200 feet. However, as the truck approached, the pilot reports that his attention was diverted to his left by some pieces of hardboard which he had not seen previously but which had started to fly about in the helicopter's rotor downwash. He therefore started to move the helicopter away to the right. When he looked to the right again, the truck was much closer than he anticipated and, although he pulled up sharply, he was unable to prevent the front part of the right skid tube contacting the top of the truck. The helicopter landed safely and there were no injuries to any persons.