

Gazelle HT.MK3, G-BZDW, 26 November 2002

AAIB Bulletin No: 2/2003	Ref: EW/G2002/11/16	Category: 2.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Gazelle HT.MK3, G-BZDW	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Turbomeca Astazou IIN2 turboshaft engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1982	
Date & Time (UTC):	26 November 2002 at 1406 hrs	
Location:	Hadleigh, Essex	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - 1(Minor)	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Helicopter destroyed	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilots Licence (Helicopters)	
Commander's Age:	53 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	326 hours (of which 8 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 8 hours	
	Last 28 days - 8 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The pilot had completed a 40 minute instructional flight at Stapleford airfield, refuelled his aircraft and was returning solo to his private landing site near Hadleigh, Essex. As he approached the site he contacted Southend ATC and was passed the current meteorological information which was CAVOK with a surface wind of 220°/05kt. The pilot reported that the descent to landing was normal until at approximately 50 feet agl he felt an obstruction to further rearward movement of the cyclic control. He believed that he had suffered a hydraulic failure and disconnected the stability augmentation system (SAS). Whilst the lateral and forward movement of the cyclic was normal he was still unable to achieve full aft movement. He therefore decided to conduct a run-on landing. As the skids made contact with the water logged surface however they dug in, the helicopter fell onto its right side and was damaged beyond repair.

The pilot reported that the quick release box on his 5-point harness may have obstructed full rearward movement of the cyclic control.

