

No: 11/84

Ref: EW/G84/07/15

Aircraft type and registration: Hughes 269C, G-BKJR (light single-engined helicopter)

Year of Manufacture: 1974

Date and time (GMT): 13 July 1984 at 0830 hrs

Location: Sowber Hill Farm, nr Catterick

Type of flight: Crop Spraying

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — Nil

Injuries: Crew — Nil Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Main rotor blades broken

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: Not known

Commander's total flying experience: 11,790 hours (of which 7560 were on rotary wing and 1060 on type)

Information Source: Accident Report Form, submitted by the pilot and Engineer's Report.

The aircraft was being used to spray a crop of potatoes, operating at a height of about 4 feet above the ground. While in a turn it suffered a partial power failure and the pilot was unable to maintain flight. On impact, the aircraft rolled on to its side and the main blades hit the ground.

The engine was successfully run after the aircraft had been salvaged though not to full power because of damage to the rotor and transmission. An engineering examination was carried out on the aircraft and engine fuel systems, the engine controls, oil and ignition systems and the engine was partially stripped and internally examined. No anomalies were found which could have contributed to the accident and in particular no trace of water or blockage was detected in the fuel filters and lines.