

No: 9/84

Ref: EW/G84/07/33

Aircraft type and registration: Enstrom F28A G-BALT (Light single engine helicopter)

Year of manufacture: 1972

Date and time (GMT): 26 July 1984 at 0759 hrs

Location: Princethorpe, near Rugby, Warwickshire

Type of flight: Private

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — 1

Injuries: Crew — Nil Passengers — Nil

Nature of damage: Damage to tail rotor and drive shaft.

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age:

Commander's total flying experience: Fixed wing — approximately 1020 hrs; Rotary wing — 747 hours (of which approximately 730 were on type)

Information Source: Accident Report pro-forma completed by pilot.

The helicopter was preparing to land on a lawn outside an hotel in light and variable wind conditions. The approach path was fairly steep in order to clear the trees on the approach side of the landing area. When the aircraft alighted, its skids were on a ridge which ran across the lawn of which the pilot had been unaware prior to landing. The helicopter rocked backwards causing the tail rotor to strike the ground.