

No: 4/89

Ref: EW/G89/02/05

Category: 2c

**Aircraft Type  
and Registration:**

Aerospatiale SA 341G Gazelle 1, G-LOYD

**No & Type of Engines:**

1 Turbomeca Astazou 3A

**Year of Manufacture:**

1975

**Date and Time (UTC):**

15 February 1989 at 1726 hrs

**Location:**

Marehay, Ripley, Derbyshire

**Type of Flight:**

Private (business)

**Persons on Board:**

Crew - 1

Passengers - None

**Injuries:**

Crew - None

Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:**

Substantial

**Commander's Licence:**

Private Pilot's Licence

**Commander's Age:**

44 years

**Commander's Total  
Flying Experience:**

508 hours (of which 160 were on type)

**Information Source:**

Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

After a passenger had disembarked the rotor blades were re-engaged, pre-flight checks carried out, and a lift-off started. On reaching 150 ft, the engine RPM dropped to idle; the collective lever was immediately lowered and autorotation initiated.

As no suitable landing area was available ahead, a 180 degree turn was made to land back on grassland near the take-off site. At the end of the turn insufficient height remained to avoid a hard, cushioned landing, after which the engine was still running, but at ground idle.

A subsequent external examination of the engine did not reveal any damage that was likely to have caused the loss of power. The engine was returned to the manufacturers for investigation.