

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	AS355F1 Ecureuil II, G-BPRI
No & Type of Engines:	2 Allison 250-C20F turboshaft engines
Year of Manufacture:	1982
Date & Time (UTC):	23 October 2010 at 1422 hrs
Location:	Abridge Golf Course, Essex
Type of Flight:	Commercial Air Transport (Passenger)
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Tail rotor, tail rotor gearbox, tail rotor drive train and bottom vertical stabiliser damaged
Commander's Licence:	Commercial Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	48 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	5,928 hours (of which 423 were on type) Last 90 days - 46 hours Last 28 days - 15 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the operator

After confirming that the surrounding area was clear, the pilot started the helicopter's engines. Shortly after starting the second engine, he noticed a golf cart on his right side that was "travelling at some speed, clearly out of control". The cart passed behind the helicopter, sustaining damage to its roof when it passed through the tail rotor disc, and continued for approximately

40 m before stopping. The pilot was told that a young child had climbed into the cart with an adult and had inadvertently stepped on the accelerator pedal. The pilot estimated that the cart had travelled 80 m before hitting the tail rotor. The occupants of the cart were unhurt.