

Aircraft type and registration: Agusta Bell 47-Soloy G-BEHK (light single engine helicopter)

Year of Manufacture: 1965

Date and time (GMT): 1 August 1985 at 0705 hrs

Location: Gate Farm, Coulton near York

Type of flight: Aerial application

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Bubble canopy broken, control rods bent, and fuel tank vent broken off

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence (helicopter)

Commander's Age: 40 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 5000 hours (of which 2400 were on Bell 47 series, including 140 on Bell 47 Soloy)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report form submitted by the pilot.

The pilot was tasked with spraying a field of potatoes. On his initial survey he had failed to notice a line of power cables that ran along the southern edge of the field. He made his first run to the south along the eastern side of the field, turning short of some farm building that occupied the south-eastern corner. His third run took him past the buildings to the southern end of the field. He saw the power cables some 10 metres ahead as he pulled to turn at the end of his run. The cables shattered the canopy before snapping on impact with the main rotor shaft assembly. The main and tail rotors were undamaged and the pilot landed the aircraft safely at his nearby operating site.