

No: 3/89

Ref: EW/G89/01/02

Category: 2c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Bell 206B, G-BAKF

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Allison 250-C20 turbine engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1972

**Date and Time (UTC):** 9 January 1989 at 1020 hrs

**Location:** 1 nm east of Malmesbury, Gloucester

**Type of Flight:** Aerial work

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

**Injuries:** Crew - 1 (minor) Passengers - 1 (minor)

**Nature of Damage:** Damaged beyond economic repair

**Commander's Licence:** Airline Transport Pilot's Licence (Helicopter)

**Commander's Age:** 58 years

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:** 15,661 hours (of which 6,971 were on type)

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

While carrying out a routine gas pipeline survey, the Commander decided to land near the edge of a field. The surface wind was reported as 210°/10 kt, and the visibility as 10 km below the cloud, the base of which was 1500 feet. During the final stage of the approach, the Commander became aware of an electricity cable in his path. An avoiding turn was initiated and power was applied, however, the tail rotor struck the cable.

Both the tail rotor and, subsequently, the main rotor separated causing the aircraft to enter a rapid, rotating descent. The Commander closed the throttle on impact and selected both the fuel cock and the battery master switch to off. The aircraft rolled onto its right side and the occupants, who were both wearing full upper torso restraint, escaped through the left-hand front door. There was no fire.