

AAIB Bulletin No: 12/93

Ref: EW/G93/10/20

Category: 2.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Enstrom 280C Shark, G-SHNN

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming HIO-360-E1AD piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1977

Date & Time (UTC): 23 October 1993 at 1130 hrs

Location: Topley Rifle Range, Topley, Yorkshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Tail rotor, tail rotor gear box and drive shaft couplings damaged

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 31 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 119 hours (all on type)
Last 90 days - 22 hours
Last 28 days - 8 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The wind was 350°/10-15 kt and the pilot made a northerly approach to the field in which he intended to land. However, soft uneven ground precluded an immediate touchdown and, after examining several locations in the field, he decided to land in an empty car park which was adjacent to and east of the field, on the other side of a four foot drystone wall. The car park sloped downwards from the north and was narrowest at the western side.

The pilot considered that the safest way to maintain adequate clearance from obstacles was to cross the wall backwards with the cross wind from his left. Having reversed across the wall and descended to a two foot hover prior to landing, he decided that more clearance was needed between the wall and the front of the rotor disc and applied rearward cyclic stick. The tail rotor struck the tarmac surface, but the pilot was able to land the helicopter without further event.