

No: 12/89

Ref: EW/G89/10/5

Category: 2c

**Aircraft Type
and Registration:**

Enstrom 280C-UK, G-PALS

No & Type of Engines:

1 Lycoming HIO-360-E1BD piston engine

Year of Manufacture:

1980

Date and Time (UTC):

14 October 1989 at 1530 hrs

Location:

St Ives Farm, Hartfield, Sussex

Type of Flight:

Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board:

Crew - 1 Passengers - 2

Injuries:

Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage:

Severe damage to main rotor blades, engine and gearbox. Minor damage to tail rotor and side panels.

Commander's Licence:

Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age:

34 years

**Commander's Total
Flying Experience:**

73 hours Fixed Wing
65 hours Rotary Wing (of which all were on type)

Information Source:

Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The wind was light north westerly when the aircraft had landed at the private landing site earlier in the day. The aircraft was manoeuvring prior to departure from the site and was close to its maximum weight in wind conditions which were described as light. The pilot reported that he brought the aircraft to the hover on a northerly heading and checked that all instruments were in their green segments. He then turned 90° to the right, moved east for about 10 metres and then turned south. As he accelerated he noticed that rotor rpm was low. Full power failed to restore the rpm and, as he was unable to land on the rough ground beneath, he tried unsuccessfully to increase rpm by forward movement. The skids passed through the top of a hedge and the aircraft ran heavily on to ploughed ground. Fearing that the aircraft might tip forward the pilot raised the collective lever in an attempt to fly to firmer ground ahead. Ten yards further on the helicopter hit sloping ground and rolled on to its side. The occupants were able to leave the aircraft through the passenger door.

The pilot assessed the possible causes of the accident as either windshear or overpitching.