

Aircraft Type and Registration: Everett Gyroplane Series 3, G-BTEI

No & Type of Engines: 1 Arrow piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1993

Date & Time (UTC): 15 August 1995 at 1500 hrs

Location: 2 miles west of Great Orton, Cumbria

Type of Flight: Private (Training)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to rotor blades, keel and landing gear

Commander's Licence: Student Pilot

Commander's Age: 25 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 120 hours (of which 13 were on type)
Last 90 days - Not supplied
Last 28 days - Not supplied

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and AAIB enquiries

The student pilot had already flown several times that day and had then been briefed to fly a short cross-country triangle using 1,000 feet as a minimum height. However, during the flight the engine stopped suddenly and without warning. The pilot set up the correct glide speed for a forced landing in a large flat field. He attempted to restart the engine, but without success. At a late stage he became aware that the approach was being made downwind. Since the aircraft was now quite low he opted to continue the approach and landed heavily while attempting to avoid a road and two hedges. The aircraft then rolled on to its side. However, the pilot was uninjured and was able to vacate the aircraft without difficulty.

The Arrow engine, rated at 65 horsepower, was running on a two stroke mixture containing four star mogas. The pilot, and the owner of the aircraft, considered that the sudden engine failure was due to an intermittent defect in the associated electrical system. A similar problem had been encountered on this engine about a week earlier and had then resulted in a successful forced landing, after which the engine had operated normally until the accident flight.