

No: 1/92

Ref: EW/G91/11/01

Category: 2c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Schweizer 269C, G-SAND

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming HIO-360-D1A piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1989

Date & Time (UTC): 8 November 1991 at 1615 hrs

Location: Oxford Airport

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Helicopter chin cowling abraded and tail rotor chipped.
High tension cables broken and two vehicles damaged

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 51 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 858 hours (of which 175 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The weather was CAVOK, the wind was 240°/15 kt and runway 27 was in use for fixed wing aircraft. The pilot of the helicopter elected to make his approach to the hover taxi on a heading of approximately 330°, over a ploughed field well to the south of the runway threshold.

As the pilot was aware of the distraction to fixed wing student pilots that may be caused by a helicopter approaching from the side of their approach path, he made his descent path slightly to the west of the one he normally used. Just a few metres before his selected flare point, the helicopter struck some high tension cables which were aligned across his flightpath and had been rendered invisible to him by the ploughed field background. The cables struck the chin cowling and skid supports and snapped, allowing the helicopter to make a very firm but balanced landing on its skids, causing very little damage to the helicopter and none to the pilot.

Although there was no fire, the fire appliance and the police attended the accident within three minutes.