

Aerospatale AS350B Ecueuil, G-OGOA

AAIB Bulletin No: 3/2002

Ref: EW/G2002/01/11

Category: 2.3

INCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration: Aerospatiale AS350B Ecueuil, G-OGOA

No & Type of Engines: 1 Turbomeca Arriel 1B turboshaft engine

Year of Manufacture: 1984

Date & Time (UTC): 18 January 2002 at 1256 hrs

Location: 2 miles south of Bideford, North Devon

Type of Flight: Filming

Persons on Board: Crew - 2

Passengers -
None

Injuries: Crew - None

Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Minor damage to fibre glass body panel

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilots Licence (Helicopters)

Commander's Age: 54 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 6,874 hours (of which 1,080 were on type)

Last 90 days - 19 hours

Last 28 days - 5 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

After an overflight to reconnoitre the area, the helicopter descended to a nominal 200 feet agl to film along a valley, the steep sides of which were heavily wooded. The helicopter's track was westerly and the speed was 60 kt. The surface wind was 240°/15 kt and the visibility was in excess of 10 km.

After about 1 minute of filming, the helicopter was banked to the left to avoid overflying a house but, during this manoeuvre, the front of the left skid struck and severed a small power cable. A precautionary landing was made in order to inspect for damage and this was subsequently carried out by engineering personnel normally responsible for the helicopter. It was cleared for a single flight back to its base, where a more detailed inspection and repair were carried out.

The cable was of the usual two-wire type which customarily supplies domestic properties and the pilot reported that it did not have any high visibility attachments. Also, the supporting poles were in the wooded area and were not clearly visible from the air.