

Aircraft type and registration:	Agusta Bell 206B Jetranger III, G-AWLL (light single engine helicopter)	
Year of Manufacture:	1973	
Date and time (GMT):	23 August at 1222 hrs	
Location:	Workington	
Type of flight:	Powerline inspection	
Persons on board:	Crew — 1	Passengers — 2
Injuries:	Crew — Nil	Passengers — Nil
Nature of damage:	Skid undercarriage cross-tubes bent	
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence (Helicopters)	
Commander's Age:	38 years	
Commander's total flying experience:	2676 hours (of which 283 hours were on type)	
Information Source:	Accident Report Pro-forma completed by pilot.	

The helicopter was flying along the right hand side of power lines, some 10 feet above the poles for line inspection purposes, when the pilot experienced a slight yaw to the left coupled with some sink. Although there was no noticeable reduction in engine noise, the pilot deduced that he had a power problem and lowered the collective lever instinctively. He noticed main rotor rpm momentarily drop to the lower end of the speed band and then recover. The pilot carried out an autorotative landing in an adjacent field, but due to ground sloping downwards ahead and to the right, upon touch-down with the left skid, the weight of the helicopter transferred heavily on to the right skid damaging the associated mounting cross-tubes. The engine continued running at ground idle after the landing, but would not respond to the twist-grip throttle on the collective lever. The pilot shut the engine down using the fuel shut-off valve switch.

Subsequent engineering inspection of the engine in the field found that the "P_c" (compressor delivery pressure) airpipe union to the gas generator fuel control unit was loose causing reduced fuel scheduling through the fuel control unit. After tightening this union and fitment of another undercarriage assembly, the helicopter was flown back to base satisfactorily.

This pipe union, like all others associated with the fuel scheduling system on this type of engine does not feature any wire-locking facility.