

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Aerospatiale AS350B Ecureuil, G-FIBS

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

**Year of Manufacture:** 1988

**Date & Time (UTC):** 4 May 1995 at 1020 hrs

**Location:** Marston Moretaine, near Cranfield, Bedfordshire

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1                      Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - N/A

**Nature of Damage:** Damaged tail rotor, tail boom and lower vertical fin

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence (Helicopters),  
Commercial Pilot's Licence (Aeroplanes)

**Commander's Age:** 55 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 140 hours (of which 70 were on type)  
(7,500 hours Aeroplanes)  
Last 90 days - 35 hours  
Last 28 days - 8 hours

**Information Source:** Letter from the pilot

The pilot/owner reported the accident to the AAIB by letter dated 14 May 1995. This letter was not received by the AAIB and it was not until the accident had been notified by the CAA on 17 July 1995 that a request for information was made to the pilot and a copy of his letter was received on 18 July 1995.

The helicopter was being flown from Denham to a grass field at Marston Moretaine, where the wind was 180/2 kt. The pilot reports that, when making an approach, he over rotated on the final phase of landing causing the tail rotor to touch the ground. The resultant landing was a heavy one. The pilot also gives the cause of the accident as an error of judgement on his part. The helicopter was later conveyed by surface transport to its base at Denham Airfield, for repair.