

AAIB Bulletin No: 1/96

Ref: EW/G95/10/19

Category: 2.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Enstrom 280FX, G-CKCK

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming HIO-360-F1AD piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1992

Date & Time (UTC): 29 October 1995 at 1045 hrs

Location: The Macclesfield Canal, Eastwood End Farm, Adlington, Cheshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 42 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 470 hours (of which 45 were on type)
Last 90 days - 30 hours
Last 28 days - 10 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The helicopter, being flown from the left seat, had just lifted off from a nearby farm and turned onto a southerly heading over the adjacent canal.

The handling pilot states that, as they arrived at the canal, climbing through about 300 feet agl, the engine over-boost warning light illuminated, so he closed the throttle. The only unobstructed area suitable for a forced landing was the canal itself, so the pilot guided the helicopter towards it. The helicopter then yawed and descended and, in an attempt to arrest the descent, he raised the collective lever, causing the main rotor blades to over pitch and the low rotor RPM warning to activate. The descent continued and the helicopter fell, out of control, into the middle of the canal.

Both occupants were uninjured and, having unfastened their safety harnesses, they vacated the helicopter through the left door and waded to the side of the canal. The pilot attributes the cause of the accident to mishandling of the controls whilst attempting to control the engine power and RPM.