

Aircraft type and registration: Westland Bell 47G-3B-1 G-BFOI

No & Type of engines: 1 Lycoming TVO-435-BIA piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1966

Date and time (UTC): 31 July 1986 at 0815 hrs

Location: Church Hall Farm, Paglesham

Type of flight: Aerial application

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — None Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Aircraft destroyed

Commander's Licence: New Zealand CPL (H) with UK validations

Commander's Age: 37 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 4100 hours fixed wing — 4000 hours rotary wing (of which 700 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot.

The pilot was spraying a crop with water in order to cleanse the aircraft's spray system. The aircraft was lightly loaded and the wind was less than 10 knots. After three spray runs the aircraft turned to re-enter the field for a final run. The pilot reported that on descending into the field, the engine lost power and he was unable to prevent the aircraft from hitting the ground, in a level attitude, at approximately 20 knots. The aircraft was destroyed by the impact but the pilot, who was wearing a full harness, was uninjured.