

Bell 47J-2, G-BFPP

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/97 Ref: EW/G97/07/10 Category: 2.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Bell 47J-2, G-BFPP
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming VO-540-B1B3 piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1963
Date & Time (UTC):	11 July 1997 at 1850 hrs
Location:	South Side A64, between Tadcaster and York
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - 3
Injuries:	Crew - None - Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Extensive to helicopter tail, tail rotor and gearbox
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence (H)
Commander's Age:	33 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	112 hours (of which 106 were on type) Last 90 days - 23 hours Last 28 days - 17 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and telephone enquiries by the AAIB

The pilot was taking his family to a restaurant for a meal. Prior to the flight he obtained clearance from the owner to land in the car park at the rear of the restaurant or alternatively on an area of adjacent wasteland. Arriving at the restaurant, he found that he was not able to land in the car park because of the lack of a suitable clear area and that the wasteland was too undulating. Consequently, he decided to fly an orbit adjacent to the restaurant while deciding on a suitable alternative landing area. While turning into the sun, he found himself rapidly approaching an overhead power cable which was supported on wooden poles. Despite attempting to avoid the cable, he was unable to prevent a collision during which the cable wrapped itself around the main rotor transmission shaft. The helicopter settled tail first onto the skids and the pilot and his family were able to exit without injury.