

Notes from inspection of wreck on Friday, November 18 a.m.

Most impacts are shallow. Asphalt not dented much. Skid marks present but small, only a foot or two at most. Imply motion of North end of dish toward North and West as it hit.

Deep impacts     Corner of box girder about 20ft W of N end of chain pit  
                  Debris at W side of chain pit on rim of low-dec pit

North limit switches. One pier broken off, other intact. Switches intact.

All 4 of West tower legs broken, but not all of East tower. Deflections greater on West tower. Largest tower leg separation is on NW side of West tower.

West bearing buried a few feet in ground. East bearing above ground.

Absence of dish debris around West tower but great damage to backup structure and surface. Surface ripped by feed leg fall toward east ?

Chain is tight on North end and slack on South. So telescope was moving North when it failed?

Least damaged segments of surface are SW and North. SW panels separated?

South rim of dish impacted beyond south edge of low-dec ditch. Failure cannot have been due to hitting south limits.

Twisting of towers essential for non-compressive failure?

Many members badly rusted.

From blueprint - moving weight of antenna is about 560 tons.  
                  counterweight is about                   100 tons

Towers were 37.5 tons and 76.5 feet high to bottom of bearing house.  
Bearing house was 10.5 feet high.  
Chain wheel radius is 90.3 feet.