

No: 12/88

Ref: EW/G88/10/03

Category: 2c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Robinson R22 Beta, G-OJVI

No & Type of Engines: 1 Avco Lycoming O-320-B2C piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1988

Date and Time (UTC): 9 October 1988

Location: Sandy Lane, near Calne, Wiltshire

Type of Flight: Private (pleasure)

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Tail rotor and left skid damaged

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 44 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 100 hours (all of which were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by pilot

Before take-off the pilot made a visual estimate of the cloud base in relation to some trees that lay at the end of the field from which he intended to take-off. He thought that there was adequate safe clearance between the treetops and the cloud base. When he encountered cloud at about 150 feet agl, he reduced speed and began to descend. As the main rotor rpm increased, he reduced the throttle setting. At this stage the low rotor rpm warning sounded, causing him to further lower the collective lever. By this time the wind had carried him close to trees and, believing he would be unable to clear them, he made an emergency landing in a field short of the trees. The aircraft landed heavily close to a wire fence which damaged the tail rotor but prevented the aircraft rolling over. Both occupants vacated the aircraft without difficulty. The pilot thought that misting of the canopy reduced his visibility and contributed to the accident.