

**No:** 1/93

**Ref:** EW/G92/09/20

**Category:** 2c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Robinson R22, G-BWHY

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

**Year of Manufacture:** 1981

**Date & Time (UTC):** 11 September 1992 at 1825 hrs

**Location:** White Waltham Airfield, Berkshire

**Type of Flight:** Private

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1                      Passengers - None

**Injuries:** Crew - None                      Passengers - None

**Nature of Damage:** Damage to skids, main rotor blades and skin panels

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence with Instructor rating

**Commander's Age:** 39 years

**Commander's Flying Experience:** 640 hours (of which 632 were on type)  
Last 90 days - 81 hours  
Last 28 days - 34 hours

**Information Source:** Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot  
and enquiries by the AAIB

The initial report from the commander, made some two weeks after the accident, stated that there had been two persons on board, and that the helicopter had sustained the damage as a result of a heavy landing. Subsequently, the commander's completed report form stated that the surface wind had been 260°/20-30 kt at the time of the event, and that the cause of the accident was windshear in the vicinity of the hangar. Engineering inspection of the damage revealed that the heavy landing had been accompanied by a low rotor RPM.

During further enquiries, the commander, who had recently obtained an Assistant Instructor Rating, stated that the helicopter had departed from White Waltham at around 1630 hrs on a local area flight with a passenger, and had returned to the airfield at 1800 hrs. He reported that the helicopter was refuelled and departed again on a second local flight, without the passenger, sometime later. It was on the return from this flight that the accident occurred, as the helicopter was being hover taxied towards the hangar on the eastern boundary of the airfield. No record of the flights were entered in the airfield movements log.

An aftercast from the Meteorological Office, for White Waltham, indicated that the surface wind at the time of the accident was south-westerly, between 5 and 10 kt. The London Heathrow Airport weather report for 1820 hrs UTC gave the surface wind as 240°/6 kt.