

Robinson R44, G-LNDS

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/2002	Ref: EW/G2002/03/27	Category: 2.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Robinson R44, G-LNDS	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-540-F1B5 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2002	
Date & Time (UTC):	28 March 2002 at 1230 hrs	
Location:	Wellesbourne-Mountford Airport, Warwick	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 2	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damaged tail rotor	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilots Licence (Helicopters)	
Commander's Age:	47 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	100 hours (of which 17 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 2 hours	
	Last 28 days - 1 hour	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

At the time of the accident the helicopter was on the ground, parked on a concrete pad on a westerly heading, being prepared for departure for a private flight from Wellesbourne. During the pre-flight checks, prior to increasing the rotor RPM to 102%, the collective lever was raised to check the low rotor RPM warning horns and lights. When the collective was raised the aircraft entered into a slow yaw to the left. After the helicopter had completed approximately three turns, the rear of the left skid dug into the grass area to the side of the concrete pad and this caused the helicopter to pitch rearwards. The tail struck the ground, causing extensive damage to the tail rotor, and the helicopter then came to rest, in an upright attitude, on the pad. An observer, who was situated close to the pad taking pictures, commented that the incident appeared similar to full left yaw pedal being applied. Subsequent examination of the helicopter by maintenance personnel failed to reveal any pre-existing defects in the control systems which could have contributed to the accident.

Weather at the time was a wind at 120°/4 kts, and visibility was greater than 20 Km.