

No: 11/85

Ref: EW/G85/09/09

Aircraft type and registration: Robinson R22 STD G-RALY (light single engined helicopter)

Year of Manufacture: 1980

Date and time (GMT): 27 September 1985 at 1253 hrs

Location: Carlisle Airport

Type of flight: Training

Persons on board: Crew — 1 Passengers — None

Injuries: Crew — Minor Passengers — N/A

Nature of damage: Substantial — to main rotor, tail rotor and boom, windows and skids

Commander's Licence: Student Pilot

Commander's Age: 29 years

Commander's Total Flying Experience: 17.44 hours all on type

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot.

The pilot had been briefed to carry out solo spot turns, hovering and circuits. After the completion of a spot turn, and at an estimated height of 4 to 8 feet, the pilot was preparing to enter the circuit but experienced severe vibration. He put the aircraft on the ground, but the landing was heavy and damage occurred to the main rotor, tail rotor and boom, with shock loading to the transmission. There was no fire, and the pilot received minor injuries.

The tail rotor blades were examined by the AIB. It was found that one blade had been pierced by an object making a 3/8 inch diameter hole in the leading edge. The hole is not thought to be consistent with ground impact damage but could possibly have been caused by a stone.