

Robinson R22 Beta, G-BYTE

AAIB Bulletin No: 1/2000 **Ref:** EW/G99/11/05 **Category:** 2.3

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

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

Year of Manufacture: 1990

Date & Time (UTC): 7 November 1999 at 1318 hrs

Location: Nr Brecon, Powys

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - Minor - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Main rotor, windscreen and door, gearbox bearer frame damaged

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence (Helicopters)

Commander's Age: 65 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 371 hours (of which 360 were on type)

Last 90 days - 16 hours

Last 28 days - 3 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The purpose of the flight was to take some photographs of a protest march. The wind conditions were calm and the visibility was good. The pilot was unable to locate the marchers and so he decided to land and get some information as to their whereabouts. He selected a green area close by a track and, after hovering to check the suitability of the site, attempted to land. As the helicopter settled down he felt it start to move rearwards and downwards. The pilot applied power and tried to lift off again but as he did so the helicopter started to spin around and the low rotor warning horn and light came on. Realising he could not control the helicopter the pilot put it back onto the ground but in doing so it rolled over to the right.

When the helicopter came to rest the passenger found himself on his side above the pilot. From this position he was unable to reach and unfasten his seatbelt. The result was that neither occupant was able to get out. Bystanders ran over to assist and released the passenger by cutting through his seatbelt strap. Both persons were then able to vacate the helicopter through the left hand side door.

The pilot assessed the cause of the accident as his selection of a landing site which was unsuitable due to the uneven nature of the ground.