

No: 11/88

Ref: EW/G88/08/13

Category: 2c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Robinson R22 Beta, G-STOY

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

**Year of Manufacture:** 1987

**Date and Time (UTC):** 28 August 1988 at 1556 hrs

**Location:** Pirbright, Surrey

**Type of Flight:** Private (pleasure)

**Persons on Board:** Crew - 1                      Passengers - 1

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

**Nature of Damage:** Extensive damage to tail rotor, boom and main rotor

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

**Commander's Age:** 42 years

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:** 74 hours (of which 73 were on type)

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

The pilot was making an into-wind approach at a private landing site. The aircraft weight was close to the maximum permitted and the approach to the site was unobstructed. Although a normal approach to land was possible, the pilot elected to establish a high hover before landing. On entering the hover at 30-40 feet, the rotor rpm was towards the lower end of the permitted band, shortly after entering the hover, the rotor low rpm warning horn sounded and the aircraft yawed to the right. The pilot corrected the yaw using left pedal before he lowered the collective lever. Rotor rpm decayed to 80% and aircraft struck the ground before the pilot could take recovery action.