

Robinson R22 Beta, G-ZIGG, 21 April 1996

AAIB Bulletin No: 6/96 Ref: EW/G96/04/20 Category: 1.3

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

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

Year of Manufacture: 1990

Date & Time (UTC): 21 April 1996 at 1700 hrs

Location: New Common Farm, Market Weston, Suffolk

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 1

Injuries: Crew - Minor Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Damaged beyond economical repair

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 40 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 161 hours (of which 128 were on type)

Last 90 days - 9 hours

Last 28 days - 5 hours

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

The pilot had flown from Shipdham to the area of his intended landing site at New Common Farm. The weather was good with a temperature of 17°C and a south westerly surface wind of 5 kt. Arriving overhead at 500 feet agl, the pilot identified his landing site and flew a circuit to locate any obstructions and plan his approach. He then carried out a power check which indicated that there was sufficient excess power to fly to a low hover but not enough for a vertical descent. After a further circuit, the pilot had noted some power lines approximately 150 metres to the west of the landing site, running from south east to north west. He decided to make his initial approach heading north and to the east of the power lines before turning right and coming to a hover into wind prior to hover taxiing to the landing site. The initial approach went as planned until G-ZIGG was at approximately 30 feet agl and 45 kt IAS. The pilot suddenly saw two other power lines running east to west directly ahead of him and tried to take avoiding action; unfortunately the helicopter collided with the wires and immediately started a yaw to the right. As he was unable to correct this

increasing turn to the right, the pilot closed the throttle and attempted a landing. On touchdown, G-ZIGG rolled onto its right side. The pilot was knocked unconscious during the impact but his passenger managed to revive him and, after isolating the fuel and electrical circuits, they evacuated the aircraft.