

AAIB Bulletin No: 2/97

Ref: EW/G96/12/05

Category: 2.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Robinson R22 Beta G-DEL T

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

Year of Manufacture: 1988

Date & Time (UTC): 17 December 1996 at 1300 hrs

Location: Wycombe Air Park, Nr Marlow, Bucks

Type of Flight: Training

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Minor dents in the tail boom; one tail rotor blade broken off and damage to the tail rotor drive shaft

Commander's Licence: Student

Commander's Age: 37 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 42 hours (all on type)
Last 90 days - 38 hours
Last 28 days - 13 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The student was detailed to practise some hovering exercises including spot turns. During a turn to the left, the rear of the left skid contacted the ground; the aircraft pitched backwards and the tail struck the ground breaking off one of the tail rotor blades. The student acknowledged that he had been hovering too low for the required exercise.