

Aerospatiale AS350B1, G-ROIN

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/98 Ref: EW/G98/06/42 Category: 2.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Aerospatiale AS350B1, G-ROIN

No & Type of Engines: 1 Arriel 1B turboshaft engine

Year of Manufacture: 1990

Date & Time (UTC): 27 June 1998 at 1330 hrs

Location: Redhill Aerodrome, Surrey

Type of Flight: Private (Training)

Persons on Board: Crew - 2 - Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Tail boom skin creased

Commander's Licence: Airline Transport Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 50 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 8,315 hours (of which 290 were on type)

 Last 90 days - 123 hours

 Last 28 days - 41 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

A hover had been established at about 10 feet agl and the instructor was demonstrating the effect of lowering the collective lever by small amounts. On the third demonstration the helicopter descended normally to about 5 feet agl when the rate of descent increased suddenly. The instructor immediately raised the collective lever but was unable to prevent a firm landing. Neither pilot was unduly concerned by the event and the flight continued normally.

After landing, the instructor noticed that there was a crease in the tail boom lower surface skin, just aft of the transport joint. He could only assume that the damage had occurred during the landing described which he accepted was harder than normal but would not have classified as heavy.