

No: 8/89      Ref: EW/G89/06/12      Category: 2c

**Aircraft Type and Registration:** Robinson R22, G-BLME

**No & Type of Engines:** 1 Lycoming O-320-A2B piston engine

**Year of Manufacture:** 1980

**Date and Time (UTC):** 17 June 1989 at 1309 hrs

**Location:** Wycombe Air Park near Marlow, Bucks

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

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

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

**Nature of Damage:** Damage to tail rotor blades, hub and gearbox. Skid extensions broken and lower vertical stabiliser bent

**Commander's Licence:** Private Pilot's Licence (Group A and Helicopter)

**Commander's Age:** 48 years

**Commander's Total Flying Experience:** Fixed wing :155 hours  
Rotary wing: 68 hours (of which 65 were on type)

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

The helicopter was approaching to land in a designated training area of the airfield. There was no wind and the air temperature was +26° C. At an indicated airspeed of 10 kt and at a height of 10 feet the pilot applied aft cyclic pitch. The tail of the helicopter contacted the ground and it then rotated through 90° to the right bouncing on its right skid. The pilot applied opposite cyclic control, closed the throttle and lowered the collective pitch lever. The helicopter came to rest upright and the pilot completed the shut down drills. The pilot attributes the tail strike to the prevailing conditions of high density altitude with nil wind, a heavily loaded helicopter and his excessive rearwards movement of the cyclic control.