

SERIOUS INCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Robinson R44 Raven II, G-ODAZ	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming IO-540-AE1A5 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2008 (Serial no:12167)	
Date & Time (UTC):	26 March 2014 at 1250 hrs	
Location:	Near RAF Wittering, Peterborough	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Damaged windscreen	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	32 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	1,550 hours (of which 220 were on type) Last 90 days - 25 hours Last 28 days - 10 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

While flying at 1,000 ft in VMC conditions, the helicopter struck a bird which the pilot identified as a buzzard. The pilot carried out a precautionary landing to inspect the helicopter, which suffered a broken windscreen transparency. After the inspection, the pilot continued the flight to his destination at White Waltham. He reported that he did not see the bird before it struck the helicopter so had been unable to take avoiding action.