

Robinson R22 Beta, G-BSIT

AAIB Bulletin No: 7/97 Ref: EW/G97/04/10 Category: 2.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Robinson R22 Beta, G-BSIT
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-B2C piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1988
Date & Time (UTC):	20 April 1997 at 1650 hrs
Location:	2 miles west of Ashcroft, Cheshire
Type of Flight:	Private (Training)
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None - Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Damaged beyond economic repair
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence (H) with FI Rating
Commander's Age:	48 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	530 hours (all on type) Last 90 days - 222 hours Last 28 days - 128 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aim of the flight was to give the student pilot instruction in autorotation. The entry, maintenance of and recovery from autorotation had been previously demonstrated and practised in stages. The student was now combining the techniques he had learned. He successfully entered and maintained the autorotation, and started the recovery at about 500 feet agl. As he raised the collective lever he inadvertently closed the throttle. The rotors slowed and the low rotor RPM warning sounded. The student then suddenly raised the collective lever further before the instructor could intervene. The rotor RPM had decayed rapidly to below 80% RPM before the instructor managed to regain some control. He carried out a forced landing with low power and low rotor RPM which resulted in a safe but heavy impact. The occupants who were wearing lap and diagonal upper torso restraint escaped without injury.