

Robinson R22 Beta, G-BSCE

AAIB Bulletin No: 7/97 Ref: EW/G97/05/23 Category: 2.3

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Robinson R22 Beta, G-BSCE
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-B2C piston engine
Year of Manufacture:	1989
Date & Time (UTC):	31 May 1997 at 1350 hrs
Location:	Sandtoft Airport, Doncaster
Type of Flight:	Private
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 - Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - Minor - Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damaged beyond economic repair
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence
Commander's Age:	47 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	137 hours (of which 50 were on type) Last 90 days - 17 hours Last 28 days - 3 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The helicopter was hover taxiing to a grass training area on the eastern side of the airfield. The surface wind was variable at 5 kt. The pilot increased his hover taxi height slightly to cross an area of rough ground. As he was passing over it, a large piece of green plastic sheet blew upwards into the tail rotor; although it was large, the pilot had not noticed it as he approached, probably because of its colour. The helicopter began to "spin" to the right; the pilot immediately closed the throttle and raised the collective lever. The helicopter was still turning when it landed in a dyke which crossed the rough ground. It came to rest on its left side and the pilot, who was wearing lap and diagonal upper torso restraint, escaped without injury.