

Robinson R22 Beta, G-RVRS

AAIB Bulletin No: 3/2002	Ref: EW/G2001/10/15	Category: 2.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Robinson R22 Beta, G-RVRS	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-320-B2C piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1990	
Date & Time (UTC):	26 October 2001 at 1315 hrs	
Location:	Duxford Airfield, Cambridgeshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Damage to main rotor, tail boom separated	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilots Licence	
Commander's Age:	34 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	103 hours (of which 95 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 10 hours	
	Last 28 days - 2 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	
	and further enquiries by the AAIB	

The pilot was carrying out a series of autorotations to engine off landing simulations. He was accompanied by a flying instructor who was acting as a safety pilot. Seven successful sequences were completed without incident. During the final manoeuvre, the helicopter was flared slightly too early, which resulted in it contacting the ground heavily in a tail low attitude with a low rotor speed. The helicopter bounced and the main rotor struck the tail boom. The aircraft yawed and bounced again, but came to rest upright with the tail boom severed. There were no injuries to the occupants.

An aftercast from the Met Office indicated that, at the time of the accident, the surface wind was from 190° at 15 to 20 kt, with possible gusts to 30 kt.

