

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Robinson R44, G-MAMK	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Lycoming O-540-F1B5 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2002	
Date & Time (UTC):	16 April 2006 at 1455 hrs	
Location:	Holt Lodge Inn, Llan-y-pwll, Wrexham, North Wales	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 3
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Substantial; aircraft damaged beyond economical repair	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	24 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	68 hours (of which 14 were on type) Last 90 days - Not known Last 28 days - 2 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and subsequent AAIB telephone enquiries	

Synopsis

Following a heavy landing, the pilot raised the collective lever, but then lost control of the helicopter in yaw and it fell onto its right side.

History of the flight

The helicopter was on a private flight from Liverpool to a landing site beside a hotel near Wrexham. The weather was good, with a light breeze of up to 10 kt. The pilot reported that he flew an orbit around the planned landing site, and flew an approach into wind (judged from the windsock beside the landing site). He transitioned into the hover without difficulty but the subsequent landing was heavy, and he raised the collective to correct this. He

recalled that he then applied too much right yaw pedal, and lost control of the helicopter, which fell onto its right side. There was no fire, and the occupants vacated the aircraft without injury.

Examination of photographs taken shortly after the accident, together with further discussions with the pilot, indicated that the approach and landing had been flown downwind. A flying instructor, experienced on R44s suggested that the high weight at which the helicopter was being flown may have contributed to the difficulty in achieving a smooth downwind landing.