

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/93

Ref: EW/G93/06/23

Category: 4

Aircraft Type and Registration: Cameron A-180 Hot Air Balloon, G-BTYE

No & Type of Engines: None

Year of Manufacture: 1991

Date & Time (UTC): 23 June 1993 at 2025 hrs

Location: Rice Farm, Meare, near Glastonbury, Somerset

Type of Flight: Public Transport

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 8

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - 1 Serious

Nature of Damage: None

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence (Balloons)

Commander's Age: 35 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 337 hours (of which 112 were on type)
Last 90 days - 38 hours
Last 28 days - 19 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot
plus telephone enquiries

The commander stated that, at the conclusion of a one hour flight, he made a firm but otherwise normal landing in a field of grass. The wind at the time was 6 kt from the north west which dragged the basket for about 10 metres before the envelope deflated and the basket tipped onto its side.

One passenger immediately complained of pain in her left leg but she asked the commander not to call for assistance. Later that evening she went to hospital where a suspected cracked tibia was diagnosed and a plaster cast was fitted. The plaster cast was removed five days later.

The commander was unaware that the passenger, a senior citizen, had a medical history of weak bones in her left leg. The passenger stated that the commander was not to blame for the accident.