

AAIB Bulletin No: 6/93

Ref: EW/G93/04/15

Category: 5

Aircraft Type and Registration: Thunder AX9-120 S2 Hot Air Balloon, G-BULK

No & Type of Engines: None

Year of Manufacture: 1992

Date & Time (UTC): 29 April 1993 at 1920 hrs

Location: Broughton Beck, Cumbria

Type of Flight: Public Transport

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 6

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - 1 Serious

Nature of Damage: None

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 33 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 525 hours (of which 260 were on type)
Last 90 days - 19 hours
Last 28 days - 10 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

As the forecast surface wind was 10 to 15 kt the passengers had been briefed for a fast landing, both before departure and again prior to the final approach. The pilot estimated, however, that the actual approach speed was about 8 kt. It was noted that the passengers had assumed the correct landing positions as the balloon approached the chosen field. Just prior to touchdown, there was a slight change in the wind velocity which turned the balloon. The pilot attempted to realign the basket 'long edge forward' but, before the balloon could react to his corrections, a corner impacted, and dug into the soft ground. The sudden deceleration in an abnormal direction caused the passengers to move sideways and crush against each other and the basket. Final touchdown was about 65 metres beyond this point and the balloon came to rest about 35 metres further on. One passenger sustained a fractured pelvis but the remaining occupants were uninjured.