

LBL 180A Balloon, G-EVNT

AAIB Bulletin No: 10/98 **Ref: EW/G98/08/20** **Category: 3**

Aircraft Type and Registration: LBL 180A Balloon, G-EVNT

No & Type of Engines: None

Year of Manufacture: 1993

Date & Time (UTC): 11 August 1998 at 1935 hrs

Location: Colerne Airfield, Wiltshire

Type of Flight: Public Transport

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - 8

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - 1 (Serious)

Nature of Damage: Nil

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

Commander's Age: 40 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 470 hours (of which 41 were on type)
Last 90 days - 34 hours
Last 28 days - 15 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The balloon was making a commercial passenger flight. The forecast surface wind for the landing area was 260°/10 kt becoming 7 to 8 kt. On the final approach to Colerne Airfield, the pilot noted the wind at 50 feet was 14 kt as indicated on his GPS. The final approach was over a line of trees oriented at right angles to the line of flight. As the balloon passed over the trees, it encountered a down draft and the pilot was unable to arrest the rate of descent sufficiently to prevent a heavy landing. The balloon bounced and the subsequent landing was normal. During the first landing, an elderly lady sustained two broken legs.