

Aircraft Type and Registration: Hilander/Sky Trike, G-MBBW

No & Type of Engines: 1 Robin (250 cc) piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1981

Date & Time (UTC): 1 May 1994 at 1640 hrs

Location: Penrallt Eifid, Dyfed, Wales

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - 1 Serious Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Aircraft destroyed

Commander's Licence: None

Commander's Age: 71 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 15 hours (Dual Training)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The unlicensed pilot had just fitted a new propeller and airspeed indicator to his weight-shift microlight and was eager to try them out before submitting the aircraft for an airworthiness test.

When the aircraft took off, the weather was good but the wind was from the east south east at 15 kt and gusting. After takeoff, the aircraft immediately veered to the left through 180° before striking the branches of a tree and crashing.

The pilot has since stated that he intended only to take off and land in the next field.

The pilot assessed the surface wind for landing as gusting from 8 to 15 kt with moderate turbulence and associated down draughts. He considered that the accident was caused by the gusting wind conditions and by his decision to land on high ground on top of a ridge. The chief pilot also commented that it would probably have been wiser to position the elderly passenger at the back of the basket for the landing.

Year of Manufacture:	1991
Date & Time (UTC):	29 April 1994 at 1915 hrs
Location:	Weston Turville, Wendover, Buckinghamshire
Type of Flight:	Public Transport
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 Passengers - 2
Injuries:	Crew - None Passengers - 1 Serious 2 Minor
Nature of Damage:	Burn damage to nylon and nomex panels at mouth of balloon
Commander's Licence:	Commercial Pilot's Licence (Ballons)
Commander's Age:	32 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	469 hours (all on type) Last 90 days - 10 hours Last 28 days - 6 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The balloon departed from Henley-on-Thames at 1816 hrs on a pleasure flight. Takeoff had been delayed until the surface wind had dropped to 8 kt. The weather forecast obtained from the Meteorological Office at Bracknell showed a surface wind of 6 to 10 kt becoming 2 to 7 kt towards dusk.

Before takeoff the passengers were given a comprehensive landing briefing. Additionally, prior to landing they were reminded to adopt landing positions and then warned to bend their knees. For the landing, the pilot selected a large field on top of a ridge. Initial touchdown was firm and the basket was dragged for 50 yards; it then lifted off again briefly and after another positive landing, the basket was dragged for another 30 yards. The injured passenger, an elderly man, had been positioned at the front of the non-partitioned basket and would have taken the weight of other passengers during the ground drag. After completion of the landing, the injured passenger was noted to be limping but was able to walk unaided; the balloon operators were not aware until a week later that he had sustained a broken leg.