

ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Cameron Z-350 balloon, G-CCSA
No & Type of Engines:	None
Year of Manufacture:	2004
Date & Time (UTC):	6 April 2012 at 08:35 hrs
Location:	8 nm south of Bath
Type of Flight:	Commercial Air Transport (Passenger)
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1 Passengers - 15
Injuries:	Crew - None Passengers - 1 (Minor)
Nature of Damage:	Two panels of balloon's envelope ripped
Commander's Licence:	Commercial Pilot's Licence (Balloons)
Commander's Age:	56 years
Commander's Flying Experience:	1,728 hours (of which all were on type) Last 90 days - 11 hours Last 28 days - 8 hours
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The balloon was launched from a site at Bath, with the pilot and 15 passengers on board. After about a one hour flight, the pilot descended the balloon towards a field for landing. The weather conditions were cold but fine, with a surface wind from 030°(M) at 4 kt, although the pilot thought that the conditions were becoming thermic, creating some slight gusts. On final approach,

the wind changed direction just before touchdown and the balloon made contact with a tree, causing two fabric panels to be ripped. One of the passengers complained of some back pain after landing and was taken to hospital as a precaution but reportedly later discharged with only some bruising. No other injuries were reported.