

Aircraft Type and Registration: Thunder & Colt 210A, G-BUVI

No & Type of Engines: None

Year of Manufacture: 1993

Date & Time (UTC): 21 August 1993 at 2015 hrs

Location: Pokehill Farm, near Groombridge, East Sussex

Type of Flight: Public Transport

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - 8

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Damaged power line. Minor fabric damage to bottom of balloon envelope and damage to basket.

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

Commander's Age: 29 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 477 hours (of which 31 were on type)
Last 90 days - 30 hours
Last 28 days - 19 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot had been looking for a landing site since 1945 hrs and after about 10 minutes began an approach to a field. Horses were then seen in the field so the approach was stopped and the flight continued in search of another landing site. All further sites seemed either too cluttered or too small in the increasing wind speed until a large meadow came into view. During the approach to this, two poles were seen to the left but in the decreasing light wires crossing the approach path to a farm house on the right were not visible. The wires were seen at the last moment and the pilot initiated a climb but the basket touched one of the wires and a change of wind then blew the balloon into a nearby tree. Having worked the basket free from the tree there was a further change in wind direction and the pilot was able to make a landing nearby with the envelope coming to rest over a hedge.