



being dragged up the wall and through a barbed wire boundary fence. The basket eventually stopped some 50 yd beyond the ditch.

One passenger sustained a back injury during the landing and the commander summoned assistance using a portable telephone. The injured passenger was airlifted to hospital by police helicopter and the commander was taken to hospital by ambulance where he was treated for minor hand, foot and head injuries. The remaining passengers were returned to the launch site by the balloon retrieve crew.

The commander reports that, according to the police helicopter pilot, the surface wind at Hanger Down was turbulent and at least 20 kt but, away from the landing site, the wind was much reduced with no noticeable turbulence. The commander, who has experienced several landings at speeds in excess of 20 kt, had expected the balloon to stop within 150 yd. He has since attributed the accident to turbulence at very low altitude over the landing site which was not evident during the flight or the approach. He suspects that the localised turbulence was caused by the wind funnelling down the valley of the river Erme which adjoins the eastern boundary of Hanger Down.