

SERIOUS INCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Westland Scout AH1, G-CIBW	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rolls-Royce Nimbus MK 10501 turboshaft engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1966 (Serial no: F9632)	
Date & Time (UTC):	17 September 2020 at 1510 hrs	
Location:	West Dean, Salisbury, Wiltshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 2
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Rubber retaining grommet perished, allowing the window in the door to fall out in flight	
Commander's Licence:	Airline Transport Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	59 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	4,950 hours (of which 190 were on type) Last 90 days - 54 hours Last 28 days - 14 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and enquiries made by the AAIB	

The helicopter was flying straight and level at approximately 100 KIAS when the pilot heard a loud bang. It immediately became apparent that the fixed upper window in the left door had fallen out, leaving the rubber retaining grommet in place. The helicopter was above fields at the time of the event and the pilot carried out a brief airborne search of the area but was unable to locate the window. The helicopter returned to Middle Wallop Airfield without further incident.

The subsequent examination of the door and window frame found that the rubber window retaining grommet had perished. The grommet incorporates ridges and channels designed to attach and hold the window into its frame. Approximately 200 mm of the central ridge on the grommet had separated allowing the window to be 'loosened by the airflow', causing it to fall out of its frame. No other damage to the helicopter was reported.