ACCIDENT

Aircraft Type and Registration: Denney Kitfox, G-FOXX

No & Type of Engines: 1 Rotax 532 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 2004

Date & Time (UTC): 28 August 2007 at 1630 hrs

Location: Branscombe, near Exeter, Devon

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - 1 (Minor) Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial damage to wings, propeller and fuselage

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 67 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 544 hours (of which 1 was on type)

Last 90 days - 12 hours Last 28 days - 6 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Synopsis

The aircraft stalled shortly after take-off and descended into trees in a near vertical attitude.

History of the flight

The aircraft took off from grass Runway 09 and, whilst still at a very low level, the right wing dropped and the aircraft turned right through 90°. During the turn the right wing struck a wire fence which removed the right wing tip. The pilot managed to recover the aircraft to straight and level flight before selecting a steep climbing attitude to avoid power lines. However the aircraft then stalled and descended wings level into a line of trees. The fixed landing gear struck the tree tops pitching the

aircraft forward to a near vertical nose-down attitude. It came to rest with the nose touching the ground and the tail suspended in the tree canopy. The pilot, who was wearing a full harness, evacuated the cockpit and then returned to switch off the master switch and ignition. He was able to walk unaided back to the airfield.

Pilot assessment

The pilot had recently purchased G-FOXX and this was his first flight in this aircraft. He assessed the cause of the accident as a stall on takeoff due to his inexperience on type. He commented that, in hindsight, he would have been more thorough with his pre-flight preparation.

© Crown copyright 2007 26