

Denney Kitfox Mk 2, G-BSFY

AAIB Bulletin No: 1/2004	Ref: EW/G2003/10/20	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Denney Kitfox Mk 2, G-BSFY	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 582 piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1991	
Date & Time (UTC):	12 October 2003 at 0947 hrs	
Location:	Long Marston, Warwickshire	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Left landing gear and left wing tip damaged	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	43 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	404 hours (of which 65 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 35 hours	
	Last 28 days - 6 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The aircraft took off from tarmac Runway 04 at Long Marston with a surface wind of 090°/10 kt. Although the forecast was for the wind to remain at this speed throughout the duration of the flight, 45 minutes later when the aircraft returned, the surface wind was reported as 110°/30 kt. This resulted in a crosswind component of 20 kt, outside the Kitfox's crosswind limit of 15 kt, therefore a diversion was considered but the pilot reported that there were 'no other easily accessible airfields'. A landing on the open grass to the south-east of the runway was considered but this was dismissed because of the possibility of hidden obstructions. The pilot therefore decided to land on Runway 04 and made a successful approach and touchdown, maintaining full back stick and right aileron as the aircraft decelerated during the rollout. At approximately 20 kt, however, the right wing lifted and the left wingtip hit the ground. Although the pilot was able to maintain directional control, ground contact due to the force of the crosswind resulted in the left wing tip delaminating and the left landing gear collapsed before the aircraft came to a halt.