

Denney Kitfox MK4, G-BUYK, 18 February 2001

AAIB Bulletin No: 4/2001 Ref: EW/G2001/02/15 Category: 1.3

Aircraft Type and Registration: Denney Kitfox MK4, G-BUYK

No & Type of Engines: 1 Rotax 912-UL piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1994

Date & Time (UTC): 18 February 2001 at 1645 hrs

Location: Keady Road, Tassneh, Armagh

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 - Passengers - 2

Injuries: Crew - None - Passengers - None

Nature of Damage: Damage to right landing gear and right wing tip

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 44 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 409 hours (of which 170 were on type)

Last 90 days - 19 hours

Last 28 days - 13 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The aircraft was being used by the pilot/owner for a pleasure flight. Whilst in the cruise, at about 3,000 feet amsl, the engine began to run roughly. The pilot checked his engine instruments and decided to carry out a precautionary landing. He selected a suitable large field and conducted a satisfactory '3-point' landing into wind, at an airspeed of some 30 mph. However, as the aircraft was slowing to a stop it suddenly cartwheeled to the right and the nosed-forward to a halt.

The pilot was uninjured and vacated the aircraft to check the damage. He observed the right landing gear axle had failed due to fracture of an associated weld. This had caused the right wheel to collapse and allowed the right wing tip to contact the ground.