

AAIB Bulletin No: 9/93

Ref: EW/G93/07/14

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Denney Kitfox Mk 2, G-BTAT

No & Type of Engines: 1 Rotax 582 piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1991

Date & Time (UTC): 2 July 1993 at 1825 hrs

Location: Redfields, Church Crookham, Hampshire

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - Minor Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Substantial to undercarriage, engine, propeller, wings and fuselage

Commander's Licence: Private Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 51 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 160 hours (of which 56 were on type)
Last 90 days - 14 hours
Last 28 days - 11 hours

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

The pilot was making a flapless approach to Runway 03 on a grass airstrip; the strip is 300 metres long and bounded at both ends by a fence. The wind was calm and the pilot reported that the weather was hot and humid, with scattered cumulous cloud. Just before the threshold, the pilot increased power as he experienced a high sink rate. He regained his normal approach path, and then closed the throttle as he approached his touchdown point; the aircraft immediately entered a rapid descent and struck the ground just as the pilot re-applied power. The aircraft bounced back into the air and then, with the pilot slowly reducing power, made a second firm contact with the ground. This second impact caused the undercarriage supports to break, resulting in the propeller hitting the ground and the aircraft coming to a stop before overturning. The pilot stated that the atmospheric conditions caused the excessive sink rate just before touchdown.