

Denney Kitfox MK3, G-BUNM

AAIB Bulletin No: 11/2001	Ref: EW/G2001/08/22	Category: 1.3
Aircraft Type and Registration:	Denney Kitfox MK3, G-BUNM	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 912S piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	1993	
Date & Time (UTC):	28 August 2001 at 1619 hrs	
Location:	Beauly Firth, near Inverness	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - 1
Injuries:	Crew - None	Passengers - None
Nature of Damage:	Minor damage to wing fabric and water rudder with water damage to electrical system	
Commander's Licence:	Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	45 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	380 hours (of which 44 were on type)	
	Last 90 days - 16 hours	
	Last 28 days - 16 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot	

The pilot took off from Inverness airfield with the intention of measuring his amphibious aircraft's performance whilst climbing with the landing gear extended. The aircraft proceeded along the Beauly Firth, to the west of Inverness, before turning to return. The weather was fine with good visibility and a surface wind of 215°/05 kt.

After a few minutes the pilot decided to carry out a landing on the water. He turned the aircraft into wind and executed a normal approach but during the landing flare the front wheels, which had not been retracted as they should have been, made contact with the water pitching the aircraft such that it very slowly inverted. The aircraft cabin began gradually to fill with water. There was sufficient time for the pilot and observer to evacuate the aircraft without injury and stand on the now inverted floats. Initially the pilot thought that the aircraft had struck an underwater object. It was only whilst

standing on the floats that he realised he had landed on the water in the wrong configuration. The local lifeboat station was close by and both survivors were rescued by an inshore lifeboat within 8 minutes.