PLANNING EVIDENCE PACK

Power Generation Development in Belfast

Incidents on record and planning decisions nearby, for a 0.6 MW onshore wind site

APPLICATION NUMBER
LA05/2023/0149/F

PLANNING AUTHORITY
Belfast

LOCATION
37 Colinglen Road, Dunmurry, Belfast, Belfast, United Kingdom

PACK REFERENCE
EIR-PACK-D-POWER-GENERATION-DEVELOPMENT-IN-BELFAST-

DATA AS OF
29 October 2026

REVIEW STATUS
Made automatically for a decided application, free to read. Not desk-reviewed.

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Every figure in this pack comes from the register or the government planning database as they stood on 29 October 2026. Each numbered section names its sources, and every incident links to its entry page, which lists all sources.

At a glance

Power Generation Development in Belfast

ONSHORE WIND INCIDENTS IN THE UK

48

12 classed as major

Section 2

NEAREST UK INCIDENT

59 km

EIR-1038, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom

Section 2

NEAREST REFUSED SCHEME

21 km

Altgolan, Antrim and Newtownabbey

Section 3

SCHEMES REFUSED WITHIN 40 KM

9

final outcome refused, of 18 sites with a refusal, withdrawal or appeal

Section 3

SCHEMES TAKEN TO APPEAL

10

7 refused on appeal, 3 granted on appeal

Section 3

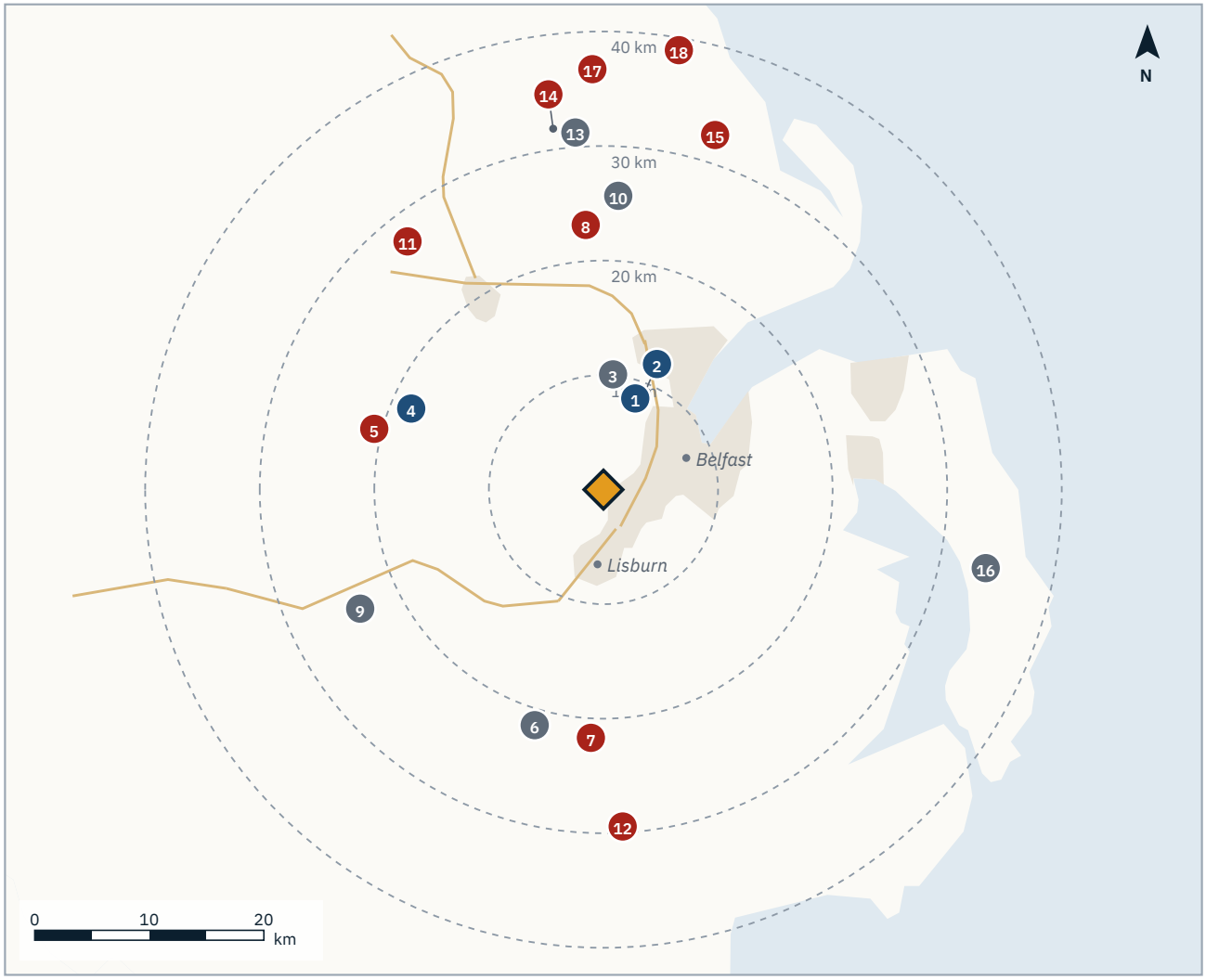
What the data shows

1. The register holds 48 incidents at grid-scale onshore wind sites in the UK, 12 of them major. None lies within 50 km of the site. The nearest, EIR-1038, is about 59 km away.
2. Within 40 km, 18 onshore wind sites have had an application refused, withdrawn or taken to appeal. Final outcomes: 2 refused, 7 refused on appeal, 6 withdrawn, 3 granted on appeal. The nearest refused scheme is Altgolan, about 21 km away.
3. Worldwide the register holds 298 incidents at grid-scale onshore wind sites in 36 countries; 109 involved fire or overheating. These are counts of published reports, not rates.

Counts are of incidents in the register, which is built from published reporting. They are not rates and not a complete census. Review: Made automatically for a decided application, free to read. Not desk-reviewed.

The site on a map

The site point, with every scheme within 40 km where an application was refused, withdrawn or taken to appeal (section 3), and every incident in the register within the frame. Numbers follow distance from the site. Schemes under 1 MW are not shown.



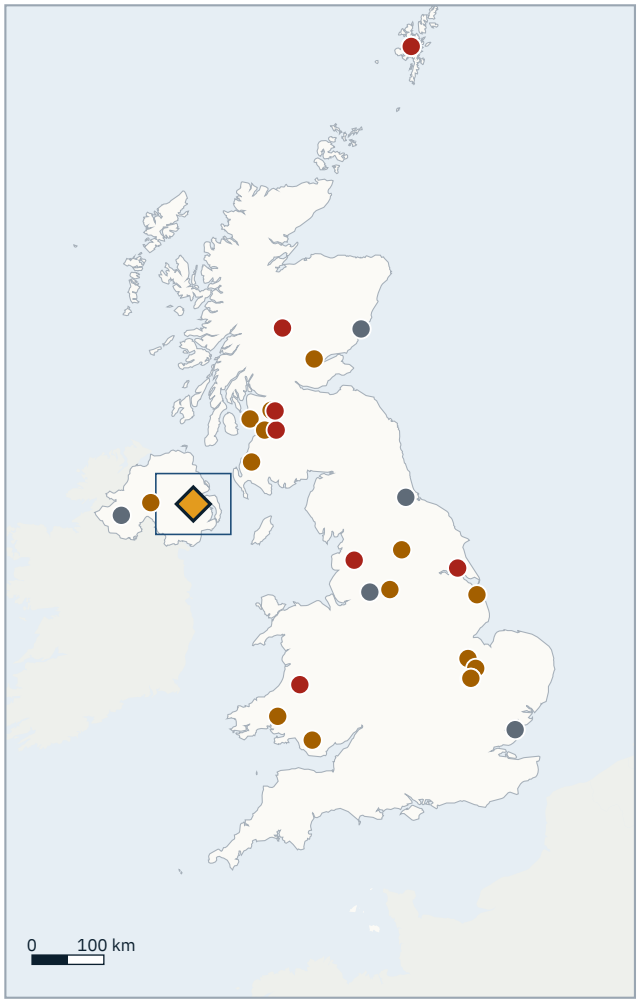
Site · Refused · Granted on appeal · Granted · Withdrawn · Pending or undecided · Incident
Built-up area · Major road

1 320mts South East of 43 Flush Road, granted on appeal, 8.5 km
2 Development SE of Flush Road, granted on appeal, 8.9 km
3 Boghill Road, withdrawn, 10 km
4 Seegronan Wind Farm Extension, granted on appeal, 18 km
5 Altgolan, refused on appeal, 21 km
6 Old Barr, withdrawn, 21 km
7 Slieve Croob, refused, 22 km
8 Drumadarragh Wind Farm, refused on appeal, 23 km
9 Boconnell Lane, Lurgan, withdrawn, 24 km
10 Wind Turbine Development in Ballyclare, withdrawn, 26 km
11 Connaught Road, refused on appeal, 28 km
12 Wind Turbine Development in Ballyward, refused, 30 km
13 Douglas Top, withdrawn, 31 km
14 Cloghinarney, refused on appeal, 32 km
15 Mullaghsandall Road wind farm, refused on appeal, 33 km
16 Wind Turbine Development in Kircubbin, withdrawn, 34 km
17 Carnalbanagh Wind Farm, refused on appeal, 37 km
18 Feystown Wind Farm, refused on appeal, 39 km

Base map made with Natural Earth (naturalearthdata.com, public domain). Scheme points: Renewable Energy Planning Database, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (Open Government Licence v3.0). Incident points: Energy Incident Register, mapped to a town or a site, never an address. Straight-line distances.

The site and the UK record

Each grid-scale battery incident in the UK that has a map point, against the site. Section 2 gives each one in full, with a note against the NFCC guidance.



Base map made with Natural Earth (public domain). The blue box is the area of the previous map.

UK grid-scale incidents

- **EIR-1038 · 59 km · 2017**
  Wind turbine reported to have collapsed in Northern Ireland during severe storm (provisional)
- **EIR-1134 · 100 km · 2017**
  Wind turbine tower collapses at Kilgallioch Wind Farm, Ayrshire
- **EIR-0422 · 102 km · 2025**
  Wind turbine fire prompts fire service response in Fermanagh (provisional)
- **EIR-1951 · 142 km · 2022**
  Investigation begins after turbine fire at Ardrossan wind farm
- **EIR-0922 · 143 km · 2011**
  Vestas turbine nacelle fire at Ardrossan wind farm during storm
- **EIR-1025 · 154 km · 2018**
  Worker dies after becoming stranded at Afton wind farm (provisional)
- **EIR-1157 · 169 km · 2026**
  Fire destroys turbine at Whitelee windfarm near Glasgow
- **EIR-0911 · 172 km · 2017**
  Worker dies after fall from turbine at Whitelee windfarm near Glasgow
- **EIR-1624 · 239 km · 2026**
  Crane topples on Scout Moor wind farm project (provisional)
- **EIR-0441 · 261 km · 2025**
  Wind turbine collapses at Aviva's Pitheavlis site in Perth
- **EIR-0767 · 275 km · 2024**
  Nordex turbine fire prompts investigation at Scottish wind farm (provisional)
- **EIR-0063 · 275 km · 2024**
  Fatal fall from turbine nacelle during onshore wind maintenance, UK
- **EIR-0032 · 275 km · 2017**
  Fatal fall during onshore wind turbine construction, inquiry findings on rescue arrangements and equipment
- **EIR-0732 · 278 km · 2026**
  Nordex turbine damaged by suspected lightning strike at UK wind farm (provisional)

34 more in section 2.

Major · Significant · Minor

1 Key findings for this site

- The register holds **48** onshore wind incidents in the UK.
- The nearest is EIR-1038, Wind turbine reported to have collapsed in Northern Ireland during severe storm, about 59 km from the site.
- No recorded incident lies within 50 km of the site.
- 18 onshore wind sites within 40 km have had an application refused, withdrawn or taken to appeal, 2 of them in Belfast. Final outcomes: 2 refused, 7 refused on appeal, 6 withdrawn, 3 granted on appeal. The nearest is 320mts South East of 43 Flush Road (granted on appeal), 8.5 km away. 6 schemes under 1 MW are listed apart.
- 3 grid-scale incidents worldwide happened at sites between 0.3 and 1.2 MW.

Counts are of incidents in the register, which is built from published reporting. They are not rates and not a complete census.

2 Incidents in the UK (48)

Nearest to the site first. Distance is a straight line from the site point to the place the entry is mapped to (a town or a site).

REFERENCE	YEAR	INCIDENT	FROM THE SITE	SEVERITY	MW
EIR-1038	2017	Wind turbine reported to have collapsed in Northern Ireland during severe storm [provisional]	59 km	Significant	
EIR-1134	2017	Wind turbine tower collapses at Kilgallioch Wind Farm, Ayrshire	100 km	Significant	239
EIR-0422	2025	Wind turbine fire prompts fire service response in Fermanagh [provisional]	102 km	Minor	
EIR-1951	2022	Investigation begins after turbine fire at Ardrossan wind farm	142 km	Significant	2
EIR-0922	2011	Vestas turbine nacelle fire at Ardrossan wind farm during storm	143 km	Significant	30
EIR-1025	2018	Worker dies after becoming stranded at Afton wind farm [provisional]	154 km	Major	50
EIR-1157	2026	Fire destroys turbine at Whitelee windfarm near Glasgow	169 km	Significant	
EIR-0911	2017	Worker dies after fall from turbine at Whitelee windfarm near Glasgow	172 km	Major	
EIR-1624	2026	Crane topples on Scout Moor wind farm project [provisional]	239 km	Major	
EIR-0441	2025	Wind turbine collapses at Aviva's Pitheavlis site in Perth	261 km	Significant	
EIR-0767	2024	Nordex turbine fire prompts investigation at Scottish wind farm [provisional]	275 km	Significant	

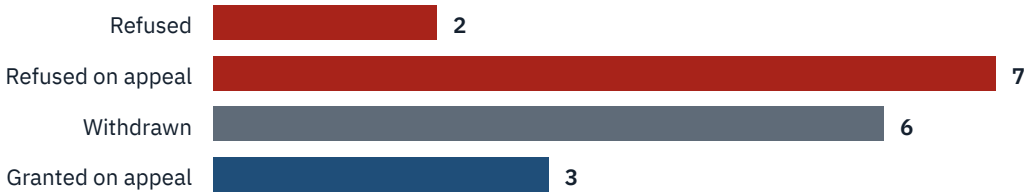
REFERENCE	YEAR	INCIDENT	FROM THE SITE	SEVERITY	MW
EIR-0063	2024	Fatal fall from turbine nacelle during onshore wind maintenance, UK	275 km	Major	
EIR-0032	2017	Fatal fall during onshore wind turbine construction, inquiry findings on rescue arrangements and equipment	275 km	Major	3
EIR-0732	2026	Nordex turbine damaged by suspected lightning strike at UK wind farm [provisional]	278 km	Minor	
EIR-0790	2022	Nordex attributes a Welsh wind turbine collapse to an overspeed condition [provisional]	295 km	Major	
EIR-1119	2019	Wind turbine fire at Butterwick Wind Farm near Sedgefield [provisional]	296 km	Minor	
EIR-0863	2017	Fire destroys single turbine at Knabs Ridge wind farm near Harrogate	299 km	Significant	16
EIR-2618	2021	Wind turbine blade failure scatters debris over Barnsley footpath [provisional]	302 km	Significant	
EIR-0874	2026	Turbine blade detaches at RWE's Brechfa Forest West wind farm in Wales	321 km	Significant	57.4
EIR-1386	2022	Wind turbine fire near St Cyrus in Aberdeenshire	334 km	Minor	
EIR-0794	2022	Wind turbine collapses at Pant-y-Wal wind farm near Gilfach Goch	373 km	Significant	
EIR-1946	2022	Wind turbine fire sends black smoke across Hull [provisional]	382 km	Significant	2
EIR-1810	2022	Wind turbine at Cargill Hull factory damaged by fire [provisional]	382 km	Major	
EIR-0923	2009	Wind turbine blade detaches at Conisholme wind farm in Lincolnshire after bolt failure	420 km	Significant	
EIR-2021	2022	Wind turbine catches fire near Thorney in Lincolnshire [provisional]	447 km	Significant	26
EIR-0895	2018	Wind turbine catches fire at Doddington wind farm after storms	464 km	Significant	
EIR-1578	2024	Wind turbine fire near Chumleigh in Devon [provisional]	465 km	Significant	
EIR-1275	2022	Fire damages Siemens Gamesa turbine at French Farm wind farm [provisional]	466 km	Significant	4
EIR-2624	2018	Lightning strike reportedly sets Cambridgeshire wind turbine alight	466 km	Significant	10
EIR-0173	2026	Substation fire breaks out at Bradwell-on-Sea Wind Farm in Essex [provisional]	561 km	Minor	
EIR-2512	2023	Fire at Viking Wind Farm construction site on Shetland	700 km	Minor	443

REFERENCE	YEAR	INCIDENT	FROM THE SITE	SEVERITY	MW
EIR-1291	2022	Fatality at Viking wind farm site in Shetland Islands [provisional]	700 km	Major	
EIR-0363	2026	Wind turbine fire at Kirkby Moor Wind Farm in Cumbria	not mapped	Minor	
EIR-0407	2025	Wind turbine fire in Trawden near Colne prompts fire brigade response [provisional]	not mapped	Minor	
EIR-0535	2025	Turbine fire at Coldham Wind Farm near Wisbech, Cambridgeshire [provisional]	not mapped	Significant	16
EIR-0403	2025	Wind farm worker suffers severe burns after power cabinet explosion near Aviemore [provisional]	not mapped	Major	
EIR-1742	2024	Wind turbine catches fire and explodes at Blaen Bowi [provisional]	not mapped	Significant	3.9
EIR-0754	2024	Blade damaged on Vestas turbine at Viking wind farm [provisional]	not mapped	Minor	
EIR-0021	2024	Hand crush injury on a wind turbine service lift, landing gate guarding and external control positioning	not mapped	Minor	
EIR-1760	2023	Wind turbine blade breaks at Blood Hill in Somerton [provisional]	not mapped	Minor	
EIR-0803	2021	Damaged wind turbine reported still a danger [provisional]	not mapped	Significant	
EIR-1663	2020	Explosion at Tom nan Clach wind farm south of Nairn injures worker	not mapped	Major	
EIR-1104	2019	Wind turbine destroyed by fire at wind farm near Wynyard, England	not mapped	Significant	
EIR-1061	2019	Wind turbine reported destroyed by fire near a major road in north east England [provisional]	not mapped	Significant	
EIR-2623	2018	Apparent turbine fire at Lynemouth wind farm, north-east England [provisional]	not mapped	Significant	
EIR-1077	2017	Worker dies after fall at Kilgallioch wind farm [provisional]	not mapped	Major	239
EIR-0869	2015	Nordex turbine collapses at Screggagh wind farm after blade control fault	not mapped	Significant	20
EIR-2488	2009	Fatal gearbox shaft entanglement at Causeymire wind farm in Scotland	not mapped	Major	

3 Planning decisions on onshore wind schemes nearby

Sites within 40 km of the site where an application was refused, withdrawn or taken to appeal, from the government's Renewable Energy Planning Database, those in Belfast first. Each row is one site: a refused scheme that was sent in again is one row, with every application listed. The final outcome is that of the latest application. Schemes under 1 MW are listed apart, below the table. Councils with a scheme in this radius: Antrim and Newtownabbey, Belfast, Lisburn and Castlereagh, Ards and North Down, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, Newry, Mourne and Down, Mid and East Antrim, Mid Ulster, Northern Ireland Planning Service. The database does not record the reasons for a decision; the council's planning record does, under the application number.

Final outcomes of the 18 sites within 40 km



One count per site: the outcome of its latest application. "Granted" includes grants after an earlier refusal or withdrawal. Schemes under 1 MW (6) are listed apart and not counted here. Source: Renewable Energy Planning Database (Open Government Licence v3.0). The table below gives every site.

SITE	COUNCIL	APPLICATIONS	FINAL OUTCOME	MW	FROM THE SITE
320mts South East of 43 Flush Road	Belfast	Z/2014/1553/F: submitted 20 Nov 2014, appeal lodged 26 Mar 2015, appeal granted 4 Nov 2015, granted 4 Nov 2015	Granted on appeal	2	8.5 km
Development SE of Flush Road	Belfast	Z/2015/0010/F: submitted 15 Jan 2015, appeal lodged 26 Mar 2015, appeal granted 4 Nov 2015, granted 4 Nov 2015	Granted on appeal	2	8.9 km
Boghill Road	Antrim and Newtownabbey	LA03/2019/0272/F: submitted 1 Apr 2019, withdrawn 7 Nov 2019	Withdrawn	2	10 km
Seegronan Wind Farm Extension	Antrim and Newtownabbey	J/2006/0883/F: submitted 24 Aug 2006, granted 13 Jan 2011 J/2013/0187/F: submitted 9 Jul 2013, appeal lodged 3 Dec 2014, appeal granted 30 Jun 2017, granted 30 Jun 2017	Granted on appeal 2 applications	9 to 13.8	18 km
Altgolan	Antrim and Newtownabbey	J/2006/0840/F: submitted 21 Aug 2006, refused 10 May 2012, appeal lodged 1 Aug 2012, appeal refused 21 Dec 2015	Refused on appeal	17.5	21 km
Old Barr	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	L/2004/2483/F: submitted 29 Nov 2004, withdrawn 8 Oct 2013	Withdrawn	20	21 km

SITE	COUNCIL	APPLICATIONS	FINAL OUTCOME	MW	FROM THE SITE
Slieve Croob	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	Q/2007/0914/F: submitted 27 Dec 2007, refused 13 Feb 2012	Refused	2.3	22 km
Drumadarragh Wind Farm	Antrim and Newtownabbey	U/2005/0281/F: submitted 19 May 2005, refused 15 Nov 2013, appeal refused 18 Aug 2014	Refused on appeal	8	23 km
Boconnell Lane, Lurgan - Wind Turbine	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	LA08/2025/0227/F: submitted 21 Feb 2025, withdrawn 21 Jul 2025	Withdrawn		24 km
Wind Turbine Development in Ballyclare	Mid and East Antrim	LA02/2024/0787/F: submitted 23 Oct 2024, withdrawn 23 Oct 2025	Withdrawn		26 km
Connaught Road	Antrim and Newtownabbey	T/2008/0358/F: submitted 2 Jun 2008, granted 1 Mar 2012 LA03/2017/0945/F: submitted 12 Jan 2018, appeal lodged 3 Aug 2018, appeal refused 11 Dec 2018	Refused on appeal 2 applications	1.6 to 1.7	28 km
Wind Turbine Development in Ballyward	Newry, Mourne and Down	LA07/2023/2984/F: submitted 20 Jun 2025, refused 7 May 2026	Refused		30 km
Douglas Top	Mid and East Antrim	G/2011/0182/F: submitted 13 Apr 2011, withdrawn 25 Apr 2012	Withdrawn	51	31 km
Cloghinarney	Mid and East Antrim	G/2011/0155/F: submitted 8 Apr 2011, refused 29 Jul 2014, appeal lodged 1 Nov 2014, appeal refused 12 Apr 2016	Refused on appeal	13.8	32 km
Mullaghsandall Road wind farm	Mid and East Antrim	F/2013/0085/F: submitted 22 Apr 2013, refused 10 Jul 2014, appeal lodged 22 Jul 2014, appeal refused 6 May 2016	Refused on appeal	10	33 km
Wind Turbine Development in Kircubbin	Ards and North Down	LA06/2025/0014/F: submitted 9 Jan 2025, withdrawn 18 Sep 2025	Withdrawn		34 km
Carnalbanagh Wind Farm	Mid and East Antrim	G/2014/0182/F: submitted 30 May 2014, appeal lodged 24 Nov 2014, appeal refused 6 Jun 2016	Refused on appeal	28.5	37 km
Feystown Wind Farm	Mid and East Antrim	F/2013/0101/F: submitted 14 May 2013, refused 22 Dec 2014, appeal lodged 27 Mar 2015, appeal refused 6 Jul 2016	Refused on appeal	13.8	39 km

Under 1 MW, kept apart (6): Upper Hightown Road (Belfast, refused, 9.6 km); Ballindery Road (Lisburn and Castlereagh, withdrawn, 8.5 km); Ballinderry Road (Lisburn and Castlereagh, granted after resubmission, 8.5 km); Power Generation Development in Templepatrick (Antrim and Newtownabbey, refused, 12 km); Tullyrain Road (Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, granted on appeal, 25 km); 85 Deerfin Road, Ballymena (Mid and East Antrim, refused, 32 km).

All onshore wind applications within 40 km by database status: Awaiting Construction 30, Application Submitted 18, Operational 10, Application Withdrawn 7, Appeal Refused 6, Application Refused 5, Revised 4, Planning Permission Expired 2. A "council record" mark means the council's own planning record shows a decision the government database did not yet have; the site page explains it. A "newer official status" mark means an official source (a council record or committee minutes, the Scottish Government or the Planning Inspectorate) shows a newer status than the government database; the outcome uses it, and the row names the source and the day it was checked.

4 Every recorded incident within 50 km

Measured on a map from the planning record for Power Generation Development in Belfast. Every size of site is included here, so a home battery fire nearby is shown, marked as such. Entries are found by their map point only, never by matching words in the text. 16 UK entries have no map point yet and cannot be measured.

None within 50 km.

5 Grid-scale incidents at sites of a similar size

Sites between 0.3 and 1.2 MW, worldwide, newest first. Capacity is the site's, where the reporting gives it.

REFERENCE	YEAR	INCIDENT	COUNTRY	SEVERITY	MW
EIR-0294	2026	Aging turbine collapses at Jaunmiki wind park in Latvia	Latvia	Significant	1
EIR-0811	2019	Fire breaks out on ageing Vestas turbine in Denmark	Denmark	Minor	0.85
EIR-0729	2018	Arc flash fire destroys wind turbine nacelle at Maine university campus	United States	Significant	0.6

6 Lessons for a grid-scale site

The lessons written into the register's entries: every UK grid-scale incident first, then major grid-scale incidents elsewhere. No home battery lessons. Each is the register's reading of the published reporting, not a finding by an investigator.

1. Large mobile cranes on wind farm site roads need a checked route, including slopes and earth banks. EIR-1624
2. A crane that leaves the carriageway can topple and trap the driver, so travel controls matter as well as lifting controls. EIR-1624
3. After a fatal crane incident, similar movements should wait on the regulator's investigation and any immediate site controls. EIR-1624
4. A 33 kV power cabinet must be isolated and proved dead before any maintenance work starts on it. EIR-0403
5. Lockout-tagout procedures must apply to all subcontractors on high-voltage wind farm equipment. EIR-0403
6. Independent verification of isolation is needed rather than assumption that switching has occurred. EIR-0403
7. Nacelle roof work during maintenance requires verified anchor points rated for external loads. Check rating and condition before each use. EIR-0063
8. Fall protection equipment condition and use must be confirmed for every task. Audit specification, condition and correct application together. EIR-0063
9. A regulatory investigation follows every fatal fall from height. Record and review all prior height safety checks at the site. EIR-0063
10. Secure movable plant parts, including bale arms, before cleaning or maintenance starts. EIR-1291
11. Assess the risks of every task involving plant, including routine cleaning. EIR-1291
12. Put in place and follow a safe system of work that keeps workers clear of parts that can fall. EIR-1291
13. After a turbine fire, treat the cause as unknown until the damaged structure has been dismantled and assessed. EIR-1810
14. Taking down a tall fire-damaged turbine needs specialist contractors and close work with the safety regulator. EIR-1810
15. Operators should plan for a long gap between the fire and safe removal, and keep nearby parties informed while that work continues. EIR-1810
16. Treat a reported overspeed collapse as a prompt to check rotor-speed protection, braking and related controls on similar turbines. EIR-0790
17. Do not assume a headline cause applies to other sites until the operator or manufacturer publishes the site, date and findings. EIR-0790
18. Record whether anyone was injured and whether nearby turbines were taken offline, once that is known. EIR-0790
19. Ensure isolation switching programmes are followed exactly and any changes are clearly communicated and documented. EIR-1663
20. Label all high-voltage cabinets clearly and unambiguously before maintenance begins. EIR-1663

21. Verify isolation of the correct equipment before work proceeds and before power is restored. EIR-1663
22. Remote sites need workable emergency communications and rescue arrangements in severe weather. EIR-1025
23. People on site, including subcontractors, need a plan for shelter, heat and power if they become stranded. EIR-1025
24. Weather-related access and evacuation arrangements should be reviewed with all site users. EIR-1025
25. Work at height on a turbine under construction needs a fall-protection and rescue plan that can be used before emergency services arrive. EIR-1077
26. Calls to a remote wind farm should make clear whether the casualty is still at height, so air, ambulance and specialist teams are tasked correctly. EIR-1077
27. Early notice to the safety regulator, and securing the site, helps an investigation while the circumstances are still fresh. EIR-1077
28. Fall protection on wind turbines must be enforced at all times, not only during active maintenance tasks. EIR-0911
29. Operators must prepare for rapid police and regulator notification after any height incident at an operational site. EIR-0911
30. Repeat fatal falls at sites owned by the same operator require immediate review of access and contractor controls. EIR-0911
31. Joint rescue drills must involve every contractor and subcontractor on site rather than separate drills by each firm. EIR-0032
32. Rescue stretchers must keep a casualty horizontal during descent from height to avoid increased chest pressure. EIR-0032
33. Fall arrest disconnection detection with immediate audible or visual warning should be assessed for use on site. EIR-0032
34. Guard all rotating shafts and couplings on turbines before they are accessed or returned to service, and treat missing guarding as a stop condition. EIR-2488
35. Use a documented isolation and locking procedure for rotating equipment during inspections, with checks that the rotor is fully stopped before anyone enters the hazard zone. EIR-2488
36. Assess whether harnesses, lanyards and clothing can become caught in exposed rotating parts, and restrict access to the nacelle during rotor movements. EIR-2488
37. A nacelle fire at 65 metres cannot be fought from the ground, so plans must rest on early detection and remote isolation. EIR-1157
38. Repeat fire events at the same site warrant a wider review of turbine maintenance and fire detection. EIR-1157
39. After blade detachment on an Senvion MM92 turbine, operators must establish a 50 metre exclusion zone at once because public access areas like forests require immediate isolation. EIR-0874
40. Blade failure events need rapid removal of the component for investigation, as retention supports root cause analysis and fleet checks on similar models. EIR-0874
41. Coordination with environmental bodies is essential where turbines stand in shared forest land, to manage temporary closures during investigation. EIR-0874
42. A blade and arm detachment from the nacelle on an onshore turbine can send sections close to a public path, so operators should review exclusion zones around nearby paths. EIR-0441

43. An engineering fault in a turbine operational for under a year led to collapse, so insurers should check recent installation quality records even on new assets. EIR-0441
44. A wind turbine fire at Coldham Wind Farm shows that operators must prepare for limited initial public detail on turbine fires. EIR-0535
45. ScottishPower Renewables should publish full reports on Vestas turbine fires so insurers can assess nacelle fire risks quickly. EIR-0535
46. Isolation arrangements should be available quickly so crews can assess a turbine fire at height. EIR-1578
47. A safety cordon is needed when flames are high on a turbine and cannot be fought directly. EIR-1578
48. After a turbine fire, damage and any effect on local supply should be checked before the outcome is treated as known. EIR-1578
49. A burning turbine top can detach and fall while still alight, so the exclusion area needs to cover falling debris as well as the tower. EIR-1742
50. Where a turbine fire cannot be fought directly, crews may need to monitor debris and fire spread, and the landowner may need to continue that watch after crews leave. EIR-1742
51. With no cause reported, operators should still identify the failed unit and preserve debris so the failure can be investigated. EIR-1742
52. A Nordex turbine fire at a Scottish wind farm site led the operator to start an investigation, so insurers should require early isolation of the unit and a site wide check of similar turbines. EIR-0767
53. Reports on turbine fires often omit key details such as the exact site and damage, so operators must record the turbine number and observed signs at once. EIR-0767
54. A fire in the centre of an onshore turbine can involve the blades and send a large smoke plume over a nearby city. EIR-1946
55. Older single turbines beside industrial sites still need clear emergency access and current liaison with the local fire service. EIR-1946
56. Early reports may show that a fire occurred without establishing cause or damage; those points should stay open until confirmed. EIR-1946
57. Coordinate immediately with emergency services and site staff to isolate an affected turbine. EIR-1951
58. Restrict access and deploy security after a turbine fire until the site is made safe. EIR-1951
59. Start a cause investigation and further inspections while evidence is still available. EIR-1951
60. A turbine fire can send a long smoke plume over nearby homes, so resident advice should be ready before the cause is known. EIR-2021
61. Fire access to turbines on private land between villages should be planned with the operator in advance. EIR-2021
62. Apparent damage seen in photographs should not be recorded as the failed component until it is confirmed. EIR-2021
63. A nacelle fire on a G80-2.0 turbine led to no firefighting action, so operators must rely on early remote isolation and exclusion zones. EIR-1275
64. Two fire services attended a boundary site, so operators should pre-agree joint response protocols for turbines near county lines. EIR-1275
65. Siemens Gamesa does not service this turbine, so post-fire analysis must still include the manufacturer for root cause. EIR-1275

66. A wind turbine tower that snaps at 18m height leaves debris that must be contained at once. EIR-0794
67. After a collapse at a remote site, the owner and manufacturer must secure the area quickly to protect the public. EIR-0794
68. A joint investigation by the turbine maker and site owner is needed to decide if the fault is isolated or fleet-wide. EIR-0794
69. Cordon off and clear debris zones around a turbine promptly after a blade or tower failure, and keep public footpaths closed until the hazard is removed. EIR-2618
70. Inspect blades and towers for structural damage after a reported failure before returning the asset to service. EIR-2618
71. Give local authorities and the public clear information on safety investigations and repair timelines, so that concerns do not build up while a site remains damaged. EIR-2618
72. Operators must isolate a damaged wind turbine and keep it under watch when it remains a danger. EIR-0803
73. Public and emergency service warnings must state clearly what is known when the article text is not available. EIR-0803
74. A headline alone does not give a full account of cause or outcome for a damaged turbine. EIR-0803
75. Fires at the blade to tower connection can lead to blade detachment and falling debris, so site exclusion zones must account for this hazard. EIR-1104
76. Fires at height on turbines are hard for ground crews to fight directly, so emergency plans must assume total loss of the unit. EIR-1104
77. Burning debris from a turbine can ignite ground vegetation, so vegetation management and containment around the base matter. EIR-1104
78. A turbine fire near a road requires plans that address debris and smoke reaching the road, because the turbine stood close to a major road. EIR-1061
79. Limited press reports leave gaps in site name, model and cause, so operators and insurers should obtain the direct incident record. EIR-1061
80. Operators should confirm lightning protection, earthing and bonding on turbines are inspected and tested on a schedule, particularly for older machines. EIR-2624
81. Fire services and operators should agree a response plan for turbine fires, including exclusion zones and when to let a fire burn out. EIR-2624
82. Operators should publish a confirmed cause once investigated, so that other sites can act on the findings. EIR-2624
83. Lightning protection systems and down-conductor paths on wind turbines should be inspected on a defined schedule after storms. EIR-0895
84. Fire services may allow a nacelle fire at height to burn out safely, so site plans must set out this approach in advance. EIR-0895
85. Burning turbines can shed components, so exclusion zones must be set promptly even when public risk is low. EIR-0895
86. Turbine fires can destroy the nacelle and hub quickly, so operators should maintain fire detection and suppression systems in nacelles and test them regularly. EIR-2623
87. Operators should agree emergency response arrangements with local fire services in advance, including access to turbines at height, since fire services may not be immediately available to respond or to give

information. EIR-2623

88. Where an incident occurs, operators should publish timely, factual updates and commit to a full investigation with the contractor, so that stakeholders understand the status while the cause is still unknown. EIR-2623
89. An uncommissioned wind turbine tower can still collapse in high winds, so operators must keep remote monitoring and weather response plans active before grid connection. EIR-1134
90. Tower creasing at the access door shows that door cut-outs need extra reinforcement checks during fabrication and quality assurance. EIR-1134
91. A turbine fire at Knabs Ridge scattered debris into fields, so operators must plan for ground-level clean-up after any nacelle or tower fire. EIR-0863
92. On-site staff at Knabs Ridge detected the fire and alerted the fire service, limiting damage to one turbine and keeping the rest of the array online. EIR-0863
93. A wind turbine collapse in high winds requires operators to review structural design for sites exposed to severe winter weather. EIR-1038
94. After a turbine collapse with no published cause, operators should confirm investigation findings before returning similar units to service. EIR-1038
95. A blade control fault on a Nordex N80 turbine can cause collapse after four years of normal operation, so operators should add extra protection even on turbines with clean service records. EIR-0869
96. Debris from a collapsed 100 metre turbine can travel 264 metres, so operators must set exclusion zones and confirm they cover the full fall radius. EIR-0869
97. Emergency services reached the site within minutes with no one present, showing that rapid notification procedures limit the consequences of a turbine collapse. EIR-0869
98. A Vestas nacelle fire during high winds needs early remote detection and isolation, because staff are evacuated above 55mph and cannot reach the site. EIR-0922
99. Network operators must be ready to disconnect a wind farm quickly when a turbine catches fire, to limit damage to the grid. EIR-0922
100. Turbines left unmanned in storms still face nacelle fire risk, so owners need robust remote monitoring and shutdown systems. EIR-0922
101. Check blade and hub components when bolts at the rotor hub fail, as fatigue there can stress fasteners. EIR-0923
102. Inspect highly loaded rotating parts on a schedule, since fatigue can lead to sudden detachment. EIR-0923
103. A substation fire at a wind farm can produce visible smoke plumes over coastal areas, so operators should prepare public alerts for nearby communities. EIR-0173
104. Electrical fires in wind turbine substations need quick attendance by fire services with enough staff, so operators should confirm response plans cover remote sites. EIR-0173
105. A small wind turbine fire can still need multiple fire crews from several stations, so operators should plan for extended response times even when the blaze is limited. EIR-0363

106. Wind turbine fires at height require close work with the operator to extinguish and secure the site, so joint procedures should be in place before an event. EIR-0363

107. A suspected lightning strike on a Nordex turbine can throw parts, so operators must inspect from height after any storm. EIR-0732

108. No injuries or environmental impact from thrown parts means early public notice reduces risk to nearby areas. EIR-0732

109. Rural wind turbine fires require rapid brigade attendance with hose reels, so operators should check that local fire services have mapped access and water points for turbine sites. EIR-0407

110. Fires in wind turbines can be brought under control in about 30 minutes when crews reach the base, so operators should confirm ground level isolation points and safe stand-off distances. EIR-0407

111. Smoke from the top of a turbine requires fire service attendance even in rural areas, as crews must reach elevated components. EIR-0422

112. Fire crews need clear access to respond to nacelle-level fires that cannot be fought from the ground. EIR-0422

113. Confirm blade damage promptly with the operator and record which turbine and blade are affected. EIR-0754

114. Do not infer cause, severity or downtime until those facts are reported. EIR-0754

115. Check landing gate guarding and external control positions on all service lifts to prevent reach into moving parts. EIR-0021

116. Reposition one-touch external controls away from moving lift parts or add interlocks. EIR-0021

117. Assess each service lift individually where no dedicated design standard applies. EIR-0021

118. Inspect, test and maintain temporary generators and their cable connections on construction sites with the same rigour applied to permanent plant. EIR-2512

119. Keep fire-fighting arrangements and emergency access in place for temporary power equipment located near turbines during construction. EIR-2512

120. After an incident, review procedures and communicate the specific measures taken to reduce the risk of recurrence. EIR-2512

121. After a named storm, check blades and the ground around towers for detached fragments. EIR-1760

122. Distinguish newly failed parts from older blades already stored near a tower, so the failed element is

correctly identified. EIR-1760

123. Where a site has changed hands, keep a clear record of who is responsible for inspection and repair. EIR-1760

124. A wind turbine fire at height may need no active firefighting if crews work with site staff to isolate and secure the area. EIR-1386

125. Early contact between fire crews and onsite staff can resolve a turbine fire without water or foam. EIR-1386

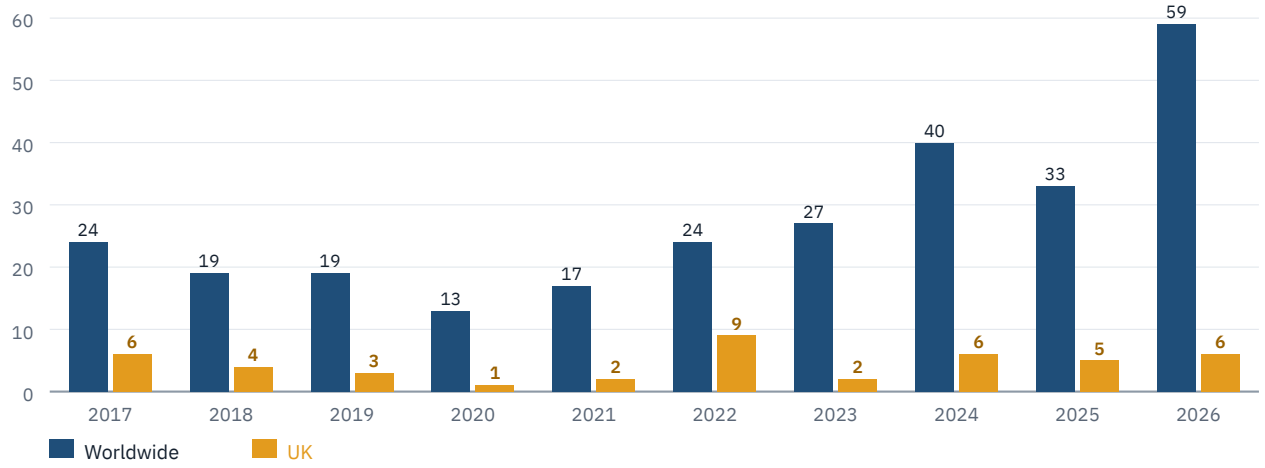
126. Smoke and flames visible on turbine blades allow early remote isolation by the operator before fire crews arrive. EIR-1119

127. Fire crews attending a turbine fire must agree site control with the supplier before approach. EIR-1119

7 Worldwide context

298 incidents at grid-scale onshore wind sites in 36 countries; 109 involved fire or overheating and 77 are classed as major.

Grid-scale incidents by year: worldwide and UK



Counts of grid-scale incidents in the register by the year they happened; 23 earlier entries are not shown. More recent years hold more entries partly because more is reported and found online. A rising count is not, by itself, a rising rate. The same figures are in the table below.

YEAR	WORLDWIDE	UK
2026	59	6
2025	33	5
2024	40	6
2023	27	2
2022	24	9
2021	17	2
2020	13	1
2019	19	3
2018	19	4
2017	24	6
Earlier	23	

STAGE OF LIFE	INCIDENTS	SHARE
Commissioning	30	10%
Normal operation	184	62%
Maintenance	17	6%
End-of-life	2	1%
Not stated	65	22%

More recent years hold more entries partly because more is reported and found online. A rising count is not, by itself, a rising rate.

8 Kept apart: other battery entries in the UK (0)

Home, farm and business batteries, concerns raised where nothing failed, and events at battery sites that were not battery failures. NFCC's grid-scale guidance does not cover home batteries ("Domestic BESS are outside the scope of this guidance."), so they are listed here and not in the tables above.

None.

9 Using this pack

Paragraphs you can paste into a planning statement or a consultee response. They are neutral, use only figures from this pack, and each carries its citation. Please keep the citation with the text.

Incidents in the UK

The Energy Incident Register, a public record built from published reporting, lists 48 incidents at grid-scale onshore wind sites in the UK as of 29 October 2026, 12 of them classed as major. The nearest to the site is EIR-1038 (Wind turbine reported to have collapsed in Northern Ireland during severe storm), about 59 km away in a straight line.

Source: Energy Incident Register, planning evidence pack EIR-PACK-D-POWER-GENERATION-DEVELOPMENT-IN-BELFAST-, section 2, data as of 29 October 2026. Entry EIR-1038: https://energyincidentregister.com/incident/eir-1038/

Planning decisions nearby

The Renewable Energy Planning Database records 18 onshore wind sites within 40 km of the site where an application was refused, withdrawn or taken to appeal. Their final outcomes are: 2 refused, 7 refused on appeal, 6 withdrawn, 3 granted on appeal. The nearest refused scheme is Altgolan (Antrim and Newtownabbey, application J/2006/0840/F), about 21 km from the site.

Source: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Renewable Energy Planning Database (Open Government Licence v3.0), as grouped by site in Energy Incident Register planning evidence pack EIR-PACK-D-POWER-GENERATION-DEVELOPMENT-IN-BELFAST-, section 3, data as of 29 October 2026.

Worldwide context

Worldwide, the Energy Incident Register lists 298 incidents at grid-scale onshore wind sites in 36 countries as of 29 October 2026. Of these, 109 involved fire or overheating and 77 are classed as major. The register counts published reports of incidents; the figures are not failure rates.

Source: Energy Incident Register, planning evidence pack EIR-PACK-D-POWER-GENERATION-DEVELOPMENT-IN-BELFAST-, section 7, data as of 29 October 2026.

Sites of a similar size

The register lists 3 grid-scale incidents worldwide at sites between 0.3 and 1.2 MW, where the reporting gives the capacity.

Source: Energy Incident Register, planning evidence pack EIR-PACK-D-POWER-GENERATION-DEVELOPMENT-IN-BELFAST-, section 5, data as of 29 October 2026.

10 How this pack was made and checked

1. The register is built from published reporting: news, fire service statements, regulators and court records. Each entry lists its sources on its own page. Entries marked provisional rest on thinner sourcing and are rechecked.
2. Grid-scale or not: an entry is grid-scale unless its reporting describes a home, farm or business battery, or an event that was not a battery failure. The rule is the same for every pack.
3. Distances are measured from the site point (the planning record for Power Generation Development in Belfast) to each entry's map point, which is a town or a site, never an address.
4. Planning decisions come from the government's Renewable Energy Planning Database (Open Government Licence v3.0), with corrections where a council's own record shows a later decision.
5. **Desk review.** The EIR editorial desk checks each bought pack within 2 working days (Monday to Friday) of the order:
   a. The site point and planning authority match the planning record, or the details the buyer gave.
   b. Each UK incident is a separate event, not one fire written twice, and sits in the right table: grid-scale sites in the main table, home, farm and business batteries apart.
   c. Each UK grid-scale incident has a note, and every quoted passage matches the NFCC text at the link given.
   d. The three nearest planning decisions match the council's own planning record.
   e. The distances to the nearest incidents look right on a map.
   f. Nothing in the pack comes from a confidential submission or names a private person.
6. If anything needs changing, the desk makes a new version and emails the link. Every version is fixed and dated, and earlier versions stay available at the same link. The method is at energyincidentregister.com/pack-method.
7. Information only. It is not engineering, fire safety or legal advice. See the disclaimer.

How to cite: Energy Incident Register, planning evidence pack EIR-PACK-D-POWER-GENERATION-DEVELOPMENT-IN-BELFAST-, data as of 29 October 2026, energyincidentregister.com.

A correction to any entry is free for anyone: corrections. Questions about this pack: editor@energyincidentregister.com.