



PLANNING EVIDENCE PACK

Example Energy Park (example project)

Incidents on record and planning decisions nearby, for a 50 MW battery energy storage site

EXAMPLE PROJECT ONLY, NOT REVIEWED

PLANNING AUTHORITY

Example District Council

LOCATION

Lincolnshire, United Kingdom

PACK REFERENCE

EIR-PACK-EXAMPLE

DATA AS OF

13 October 2026

REVIEW STATUS

Example only. Not reviewed.



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Every figure in this pack comes from the register or the government planning database as they stood on 13 October 2026. Each numbered section names its sources, and every incident links to its entry page, which lists all sources.

At a glance

Example Energy Park (example project)

GRID-SCALE BATTERY INCIDENTS IN THE UK

5

1 classed as major
Section 2

NEAREST UK INCIDENT

58 km

EIR-0584, Rainworth CP, Newark and Sherwood
Section 2

SCHEMES REFUSED WITHIN 40 KM

0

final outcome refused, of 5 sites with a refusal, withdrawal or appeal
Section 3

SCHEMES TAKEN TO APPEAL

4

4 granted on appeal
Section 3

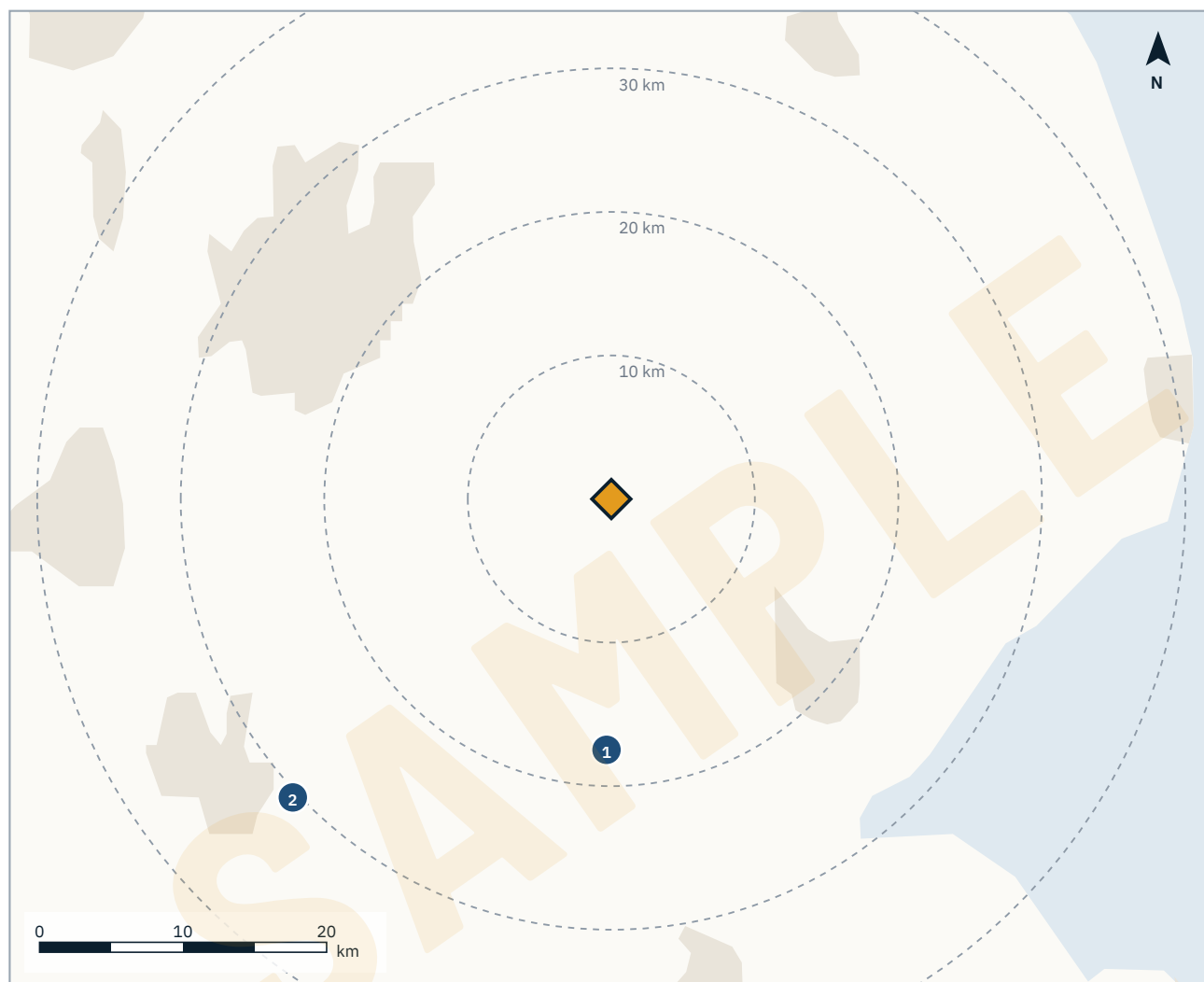
What the data shows

- 1
- The register holds 5 incidents at grid-scale battery sites in the UK, 1 of them major. None lies within 50 km of the site. The nearest, EIR-0584, is about 58 km away.
- 2
- Within 40 km, 5 battery energy storage sites have had an application refused, withdrawn or taken to appeal. Final outcomes: 1 withdrawn, 4 granted on appeal.
- 3
- Worldwide the register holds 147 incidents at grid-scale battery energy storage sites in 18 countries; 129 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: Example only. Not 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The site point, with every scheme within 40 km where an application was refused, withdrawn or taken to appeal (section 3), and every incident in the register within the frame.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.



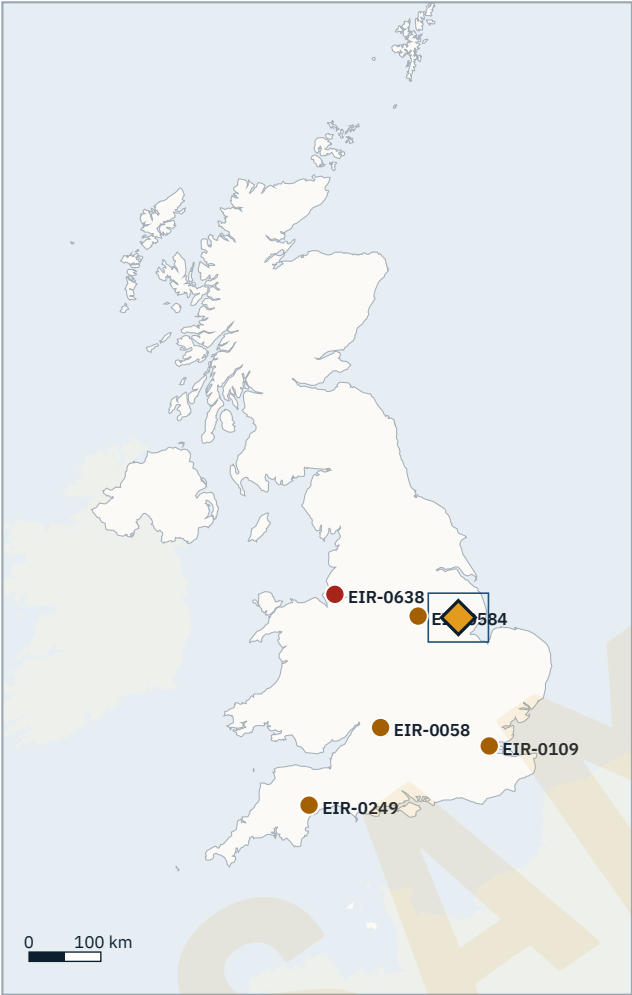
1 Little Hale Fen, granted on appeal, 18 km

2 Ash Tree Solar Farm & Battery Storage, granted on appeal, 31 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-0584 · 58 km · 2026**
Fire in a battery container at Rufford Colliery BESS, Rainworth, caused by a short circuit in NMC cells (provisional)
- EIR-0638 · 180 km · 2020**
Explosion and prolonged fire at Orsted battery storage site in Liverpool
- EIR-0109 · 185 km · 2025**
Fire in single battery unit at Thurrock BESS under construction
- EIR-0058 · 192 km · 2025**
Fire in two battery containers at Cirencester Hybrid Solar Farm, Gloucestershire
- EIR-0249 · 343 km · 2026**
Smoke and fire incident at Battery Box, Pinhoe Road, Exeter

● Major ● Significant ● Minor

SAMPLE

1Key findings for this site

- The register holds 5 incidents at grid-scale battery sites in the UK, 1 of them major. Home, farm and business batteries are counted apart (9).
- The nearest is [EIR-0584](#), Fire in a battery container at Rufford Colliery BESS, Rainworth, caused by a short circuit in NMC cells, about 58 km from the site.
- No recorded incident lies within 50 km of the site.
- 5 battery energy storage sites within 40 km have had an application refused, withdrawn or taken to appeal. Final outcomes: 1 withdrawn, 4 granted on appeal. The nearest is Little Hale Fen - Solar Farm (granted on appeal), 18 km away. 1 scheme under 1 MW is listed apart.
- 12 grid-scale incidents worldwide happened at sites between 25 and 100 MW.

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

2Grid-scale battery incidents in the UK (5)

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-0584	2026	Fire in a battery container at Rufford Colliery BESS, Rainworth, caused by a short circuit in NMC cells [provisional]	58 km	Significant	7
EIR-0638	2020	Explosion and prolonged fire at Orsted battery storage site in Liverpool	180 km	Major	20

3 more rows in a bought pack.

Each incident against the NFCC guidance

What the reporting says, set against the passages of the National Fire Chiefs Council guidance that fire service consultees cite. The guidance is advice to fire services, not law, and most of these sites were built before its current edition. The notes do not say a site broke it.

EIR-0584 Fire in a battery container at Rufford Colliery BESS, Rainworth, caused by a short circuit in NMC cells

A fire in one battery container on 1 May 2026. The fire service was called at 05:21 and, according to the owner, the fire was put out "in short order" with no injuries. The owner said an initial investigation found the cause to be a short circuit in the site's NMC cells, a technology the fund says it has not used in any BESS bought since 2020 and was already augmenting. The entry rests on one trade report, so it is provisional. It bears on cell chemistry and on early fault detection that can isolate a battery remotely.

"From a safety perspective, it is noted that LFP batteries typically have better thermal stability (lowering the probability of thermal runaway) than NMC batteries, but not removing it."

Section 7, Battery chemistry (quoting the 2024 Frazer-Nash report for DESNZ), NFCC guidance (December 2025)

"An effective and appropriate method of early fault detection within the batteries should be in place, making it possible to immediately disconnect the affected battery/batteries remotely."

Section 8, Detection and monitoring, NFCC guidance (December 2025)

Main source: [ess-news.com](#). All sources are on the entry page.

4 more incident notes, each with the NFCC passages it bears on, in a bought pack.

3 Planning decisions on battery energy storage 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 Example District Council 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: East Lindsey, North Kesteven, Boston, South Holland, West Lindsey, South Kesteven, Lincolnshire, Newark and Sherwood. The database does not record the reasons for a decision; the council's planning record does, under the application number.

Final outcomes of the 5 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 (1) 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
Little Hale Fen - Solar Farm	North Kesteven	23/1021/FUL: submitted 15 Sep 2023, refused 7 Nov 2024, appeal lodged 7 May 2025, appeal granted 13 Aug 2025, granted 13 Aug 2025	Granted on appeal	49.99	18 km
Ash Tree Solar Farm & Battery Storage	South Kesteven	S23/2199: submitted 29 Nov 2023, refused 25 Oct 2024, appeal granted 18 Jul 2025, granted 18 Jul 2025	Granted on appeal	25	31 km

3 more rows in a bought pack.

Under 1 MW, kept apart (1): Burton Lane (West Lindsey, granted after resubmission, 29 km).

All battery energy storage applications within 40 km by database status: Awaiting Construction 33, Application Submitted 14, Planning Permission Expired 2, Operational 1, Under Construction 1, Application Withdrawn 1, Revised 1. 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 an example point in Lincolnshire, for an example project. 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. 3 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 25 and 100 MW, worldwide, newest first. Capacity is the site's, where the reporting gives it.

REFERENCE	YEAR	INCIDENT	COUNTRY	SEVERITY	MW
EIR-0100	2025	Battery fire at Bolster Substation in Peoria, Arizona contained by controlled burn	United States	Significant	25
EIR-0101	2025	Battery units ignite at Townsite Solar and Storage in Boulder City, Nevada	United States	Significant	90

10 more rows in a bought pack.

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. BESS containers need verified automatic fire suppression that activates on detection, as the system here failed to actuate and allowed thermal runaway to continue. [EIR-0638](#)
2. A site monitored remotely must alert the local fire service as soon as its fire alarm actuates. Here the site was managed remotely by Orsted from Denmark, and that remote management did not alert the fire service when the alarm actuated. Orsted first contacted Fire Control at about 01:30, after the first crew had arrived at 00:57. [EIR-0638](#)

38 more rows in a bought pack.

7 The NFCC guidance points consultees cite

Quoted word for word from NFCC, [Grid scale energy storage system planning: Guidance for fire and rescue services](#) (approved for publication in December 2025, replacing the first edition), checked on 8 October 2026. Many consultee responses still quote the [first edition](#) (Version 1.0, November 2022), so its figures are given too, marked as such.

Scope

"This guidance relates to battery energy storage systems (BESS) which are deployed in open air environments, with an energy capacity of one megawatt hour (MWh) or greater using lithium variant batteries."

Section 1, Scope, NFCC guidance (December 2025)

"Domestic BESS are outside the scope of this guidance."

Section 1, Scope, NFCC guidance (December 2025)

"As such, the fire and rescue service are not a statutory consultee in planning applications for BESS sites."

Section 4, Planning approval process, NFCC guidance (December 2025)

Spacing between units, and to buildings

"The emergency response plan should assume that the fire will not spread beyond the BESS container of origin."

Section 12, Spacing between BESS, NFCC guidance (December 2025)

"An initial minimum distance of 30m is proposed between BESS cabinets (or associated infrastructure such as transformers and switchgear) and occupied buildings, before considering any mitigation such as blast walls."

Section 12, Spacing between BESS, NFCC guidance (December 2025)

"A standard minimum spacing between units of 6 metres is suggested unless suitable design features can be introduced to reduce that spacing."

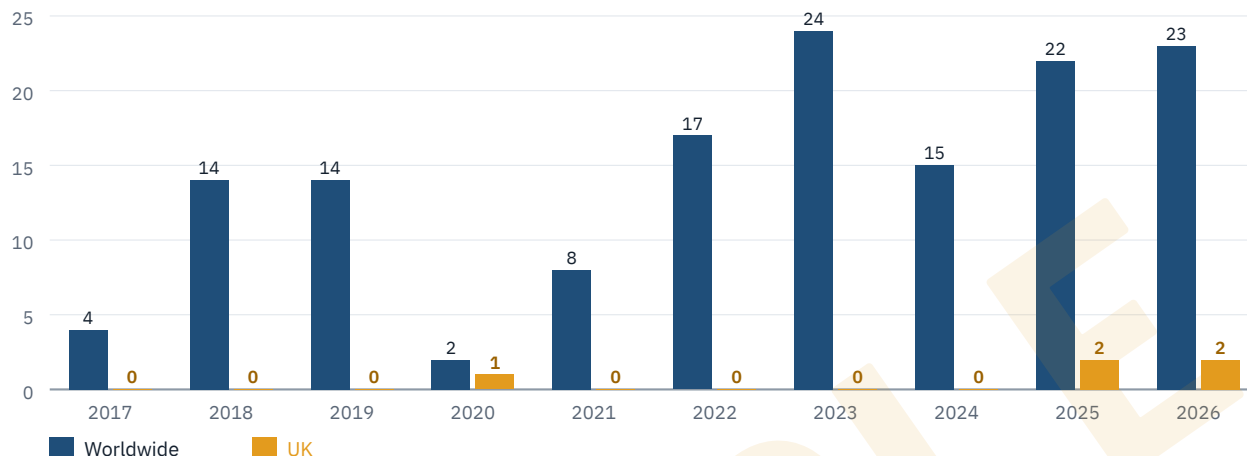
Access between BESS units and unit spacing, NFCC first edition (Version 1.0, November 2022)

4 more topics in a bought pack.

8 Worldwide context

147 incidents at grid-scale battery energy storage sites in 18 countries; 129 involved fire or overheating and 17 are classed as major. 29 further entries are home, farm or business batteries, or not battery failures, and are not counted here.

Grid-scale incidents by year: worldwide and UK



Counts of grid-scale incidents in the register by the year they happened; 4 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	WOR LDW IDE	UK
2026	23	2
2025	22	2
2024	15	0
2023	24	0
2022	17	0
2021	8	0
2020	2	1
2019	14	0
2018	14	0
2017	4	0
Earlier	4	

STAGE OF LIFE	INCIDENTS	SHARE
Commissioning	15	10%
Normal operation	110	75%
Maintenance	1	1%
End-of-life	1	1%
Not stated	20	14%

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

9

Kept apart: other battery entries in the UK (9)

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.

REFERENCE	YEAR	INCIDENT	COUNTRY	KIND OF SITE
EIR-1520	2026	Fire in home battery storage system connected to solar panels	United Kingdom	Home battery
EIR-0681	2026	Gas leak at Cockenzie battery storage site under construction [provisional]	United Kingdom	Not a battery failure

7 more rows in a bought pack.

10 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 5 incidents at grid-scale battery energy storage sites in the UK as of 13 October 2026, 1 of them classed as major. The nearest to the site is EIR-0584 (Fire in a battery container at Rufford Colliery BESS, Rainworth, caused by a short circuit in NMC cells), about 58 km away in a straight line.

Source: Energy Incident Register, planning evidence pack EIR-PACK-EXAMPLE, section 2, data as of 13 October 2026. Entry EIR-0584: <https://energyincidentregister.com/incident/eir-0584/>

Planning decisions nearby

The Renewable Energy Planning Database records 5 battery energy storage sites within 40 km of the site where an application was refused, withdrawn or taken to appeal. Their final outcomes are: 1 withdrawn, 4 granted on appeal.

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-EXAMPLE, section 3, data as of 13 October 2026.

Status of the fire service guidance

The National Fire Chiefs Council guidance for fire and rescue services on grid scale energy storage planning states: "As such, the fire and rescue service are not a statutory consultee in planning applications for BESS sites." It also states: "An effective and appropriate method of early fault detection within the batteries should be in place, making it possible to immediately disconnect the affected battery/batteries remotely."

Source: NFCC, Grid scale energy storage system planning: Guidance for fire and rescue services (approved for publication in December 2025, replacing the first edition), Section 4, Planning approval process and Section 8, Detection and monitoring. <https://nfcc.org.uk/our-services/building-safety/grid-scale-energy-storage-system-planning-guidance-for-fire-and-rescue-services/>

Worldwide context

Worldwide, the Energy Incident Register lists 147 incidents at grid-scale battery energy storage sites in 18 countries as of 13 October 2026. Of these, 129 involved fire or overheating and 17 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-EXAMPLE, section 8, data as of 13 October 2026.

Sites of a similar size

The register lists 12 grid-scale incidents worldwide at sites between 25 and 100 MW, where the reporting gives the capacity.

Source: Energy Incident Register, planning evidence pack EIR-PACK-EXAMPLE, section 5, data as of 13 October 2026.

11 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 (an example point in Lincolnshire, for an example project) 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-EXAMPLE, data as of 13 October 2026, energyincidentregister.com.

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