

In addition to SEPE's objections to the limited opportunity to respond and the applicant's removal of one timetabled stage of iterative scrutiny, I am raising a further objection in the light of the recent destructive and widespread fires. The applicant cannot ignore the increasing seasonally high temperatures and drought, and I would like to pick up on [REDACTED]'s point at the public hearing about the lack of fire engines. The flat arable land in question and in the surrounding area, makes fire risk extremely hazardous and quick to spread. I have evidence through photographs taken today 3/8/26 that a nearby solar park on the Bushmead Road to Eaton Socon has allowed dry grasses and weeds to grow high which in the event of battery fire or solar panel over heating is a grave concern and high risk for spreading wildfire.

The BBC reported this on 27 July 2026 :

Current fire incident reporting does not allow the government to determine how many fires have been directly caused by solar panels.

However, the number of incidents, external in England where "solar panel" or "photovoltaic (PV) panel" has been mentioned in the fire incident records doubled from 39 in 2020 to 81 in 2024.





