

Near Miss

Solar PV Installation to flat roof

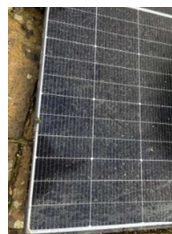
On the morning of Saturday 7th December 2024 during high/gusting winds (Storm Darrah), a single installed solar panel lifted from the roof (1st floor) of a semi-detached property and landed on the ground, approximately 1.5-2 metres from the property entrance. There was no injury or damage sustained.

6 no. solar panels had been installed by a contractor working on behalf of Agility Eco on 29 September 2024 using the Rensol Console+ base unit to secure the panels from movement. No fixings were used as part of the design/install process.

The base Rensol Console+ is designed that a form of “ballast” is used as a weight to secure the panels and prevent movement.



Flat roof space where solar panels were located and had moved during the high winds



Landing point of solar panel following high winds/gusting

Investigation:

Following the incident, the investigation revealed that no “weight” had been added to the Rensol Console+ as part of the installation procedure.

Learning Points:

1. Checks are being made on all previous flat roof installations by the contractor to ensure that no other installations were affected.
2. Method Statement detail was incorrect as to the method of installation.
3. Scrutiny of sign off certificates are being undertaken for all flat roof installations to ensure that equipment/type of roof is correct on this documentation.
4. Hold Point – pictorial evidence is to be obtained by all installation teams for the contractor that “weight” has been added to the base of the unit and is recommended to ensure that this incident does not reoccur.