

Swalsett Energy Park

Public consultation
April and May 2023

exagen



We are keen to inform both owners of properties and residents of our proposals.

If this leaflet is received by the occupier of the property and you are not the freehold owner please can you ensure this is shared with them.

Alternatively, please contact Exagen using the details provided and share the contact details for the freehold owner so we can provide them with a copy of the leaflet.

Please note that taking part in this consultation process does not affect your statutory rights to make representations to the councils when the formal planning application is submitted.

Introduction

Dear resident, we would like to introduce Exagen and our new project, Swallett Energy Park. We want to take this opportunity to understand your views, by gathering feedback on our plans. You have received this leaflet because you live near to the project or are located in close proximity to the proposed access route.

Swallett Energy Park is a ground mounted solar farm with the option to add co-located battery storage. The project will connect via a buried cable into the local grid at Lyneham substation, located just to the east of the site.

At Exagen, we are creating the next generation of renewable energy projects and grid-balancing battery storage facilities to support the UK's energy future. We do this in partnership with the local community.

The site comprises of one parcel of land located between the M4 motorway and the railway line between Chippenham and Swindon. The project is west of Dauntsey Lock and northeast of Christian Malford.

To make this project work for all, we are seeking your views on this proposal ahead of submitting a formal planning application to Wiltshire Council.

You can see the red line on the map on page 2 which indicates the land available. Through consultation with the community, the council, and environmental assessments we will look to refine the development area to create a project that works for the local community.

We want you and your community to be involved and stay informed, that's why we've created a dedicated website for you to stay updated on the project and provide feedback.

We invite you to attend a public exhibition on the project, delivered by our project team, and if you can't make that there will also be a webinar, a recording of which will be posted on the website.

--Dates for your diary--

Public exhibitions

Wednesday, 3rd May, 4.30-8pm

Bradenstoke Village Hall
Bradenstoke,
Chippenham SN15 4EL

Thursday, 4th May, 4-8pm

Christian Malford Village Hall
Station Rd,
Christian Malford,
Chippenham SN15 4BL

Webinar

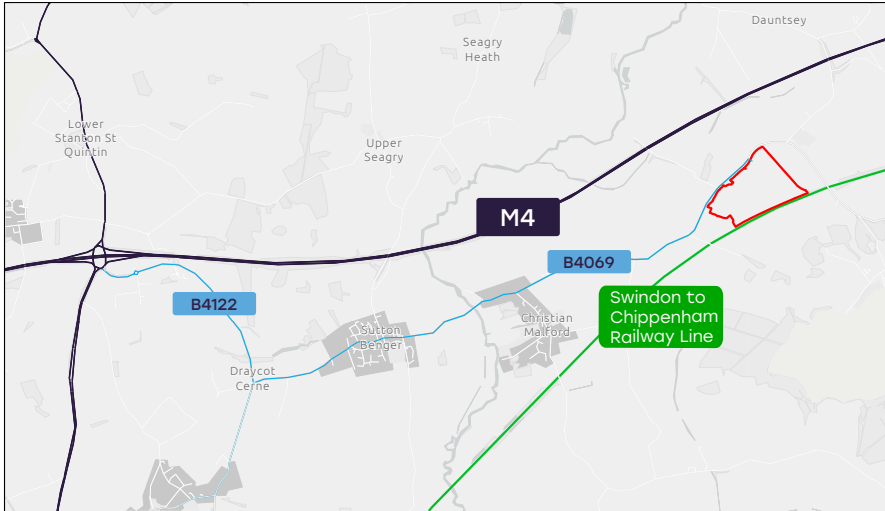
Monday, 15th May, 7pm

GoTo Webinar ID: 316-899-371



To learn more visit
[www.exagen.co.uk/
swallett-energy-park](http://www.exagen.co.uk/swallett-energy-park)

Swallett Energy Park



The site access route in **BLUE** via an existing agricultural entry point, upgraded to meet the needs of the new purpose. The route to site will be from the M4, then via the B4122 which joins the B4069, which heads east towards the site access point.

Construction of the development will take approximately 6 months.

Once operational the site would be remotely operated with visits limited to occasional cars and vans for maintenance only.

Project overview

The project consists of a solar farm with the option to add co-located battery storage, placed on 115 acres (46.5 hectares) of land south of the M4 motorway between the B4069 and the Swindon to Chippenham railway line, to the north-west of the village of Dauntsey Lock.

The project will include the solar farm, battery storage system and associated infrastructure all within the land boundary. There will then be a short section of buried cable between the site and Lyneham substation which will run approximately 750m in the B4069. A total of approximately 100 acres (40.5 ha) of land will be required for the development. We are undertaking consultation and environment assessment to determine the most suitable land for development.

The solar farm will have an export capacity of up to 30MWp, which is the equivalent to the annual electricity usage of approximately 9,400 homes in Wiltshire.

The battery storage facility will have a capacity of up to 23MW and will occupy less than 1 acre. It will provide 2-hour duration of electricity export per discharge, this is the same as powering approximately 5,800 homes in Wiltshire per charge.



The solar farm will have an export capacity of 30MWp, equivalent to the annual electricity usage of **9,400 UK homes**.

Why do we need projects like this?

- › Solar is one of the cheapest forms of electricity generation and fastest to deliver.
- › Batteries can manage the peaks and troughs on the UK grid throughout the day, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels for reactive power.
- › New renewable energy projects will enable the UK to meet our Climate Emergency and net zero by 2050 ambitions which are important for generations to come.
- › Wiltshire Council declared a climate emergency in February 2019 and are seeking carbon neutrality by 2030, this project will help to deliver this goal.
- › Investment now into renewable electricity infrastructure makes for a cleaner, cheaper and more secure energy system for the UK.
- › The use of the site for solar energy generation creates new habitats, green infrastructure improvements and substantial biodiversity gains.



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Why here?

The site has been selected for a number of reasons:

- › The site benefits from available connection to the grid network which has become limited, with no alternatives on brownfield sites nearby.
- › Proximity to the Lyneham substation in Dauntsey Lock means that the distance of cabling to the point of connection is short.
- › Site free of any other significant environmental designations and good opportunities to provide biodiversity enhancements.
- › The site is equidistant at approximately 5km from the Cotswolds and North Wessex Downs AONBs and not visible from either.
- › No loss of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land – all Grade 3b.
- › The lack of long-distance views towards the site from low-lying areas to the north, east and west.
- › Presence of on-site existing hedgerow and opportunity to enhance the local biodiversity with new planting such as native woodland, hedgerow and grassland.
- › Good access.





Local engagement

Exagen is committed to the local communities in which we operate.

We engage with communities on each project through public consultation and identify local initiatives that we can support through a community benefit fund.

Local contractors and businesses will be engaged as far as possible during the construction and operational phases, where service offerings are not specialist. If you would like to obtain further information about the community benefit fund or enquire about providing services for this project, please visit the project website.



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Pre-planning process

A number of surveys are being conducted to establish any potential effects of the development on the site and surrounding area. These surveys include ecology, archaeology & cultural heritage, construction access & traffic, noise, flood risk and glint & glare. In addition, a landscape and visual appraisal will be undertaken to identify any impacts on key landscape and visual receptors. Our preliminary list of viewpoints is available on our website.

We will use the findings of these surveys and comments from Wiltshire Council in their pre-application advice, alongside the comments received through the public consultation process, to refine the final design of the development in advance of the planning application being submitted. We want to get your comments now on our proposals so they can shape the final design, however, members of the public will also be provided with an opportunity to formally comment on the proposals direct to the Wiltshire Council when the application is submitted.

Energy park components

- › The solar panels, individually approx. 2m x 1m, would be mounted on metal frames fitted to the ground. The panels are fixed facing south at an angle of between 10 to 35 degrees, with a gap of between 3.5 to 6m between rows. The bottom end of the panels 0.7m above the ground, rising to 3m at the top.
- › Inverters and transformers, housed in glass reinforced plastic/ steel containers, painted to match surroundings.
- › Battery storage containers arranged in rows – appearance of standard shipping containers with a height of approximately 3m and painted to match surroundings.
- › Inverters, low voltage transformers and high voltage switchgear.
- › Access tracks.
- › Perimeter deer fencing to a height of 2.4m (wooden post and steel mesh).
- › Motion activated CCTV cameras on 3m high poles inside the fence.

Biodiversity

The site is arable farmland bordered by native species hedgerows with trees or tree belts. The fields are intensively farmed and cultivated close to the field boundaries.

All existing high value vegetation will be retained and enhanced as part of the project.

Biodiversity enhancements are central to our project planning and we employ a range of practices to suit the local environment.



Wildflowers planted to improve habitat for pollinators, including under the overhead lines.



Bird and bat boxes will be installed in areas of mature trees across the site, exact locations informed by our ecological consultant.



Switching intensive arable farmland for species rich grassland around the panels to be grazed by sheep, retaining agricultural purpose alongside renewable energy.



Existing hedgerows will be enhanced where necessary, including gapping up and strengthening certain locations using native species. This will ensure greater connectivity through green corridors.



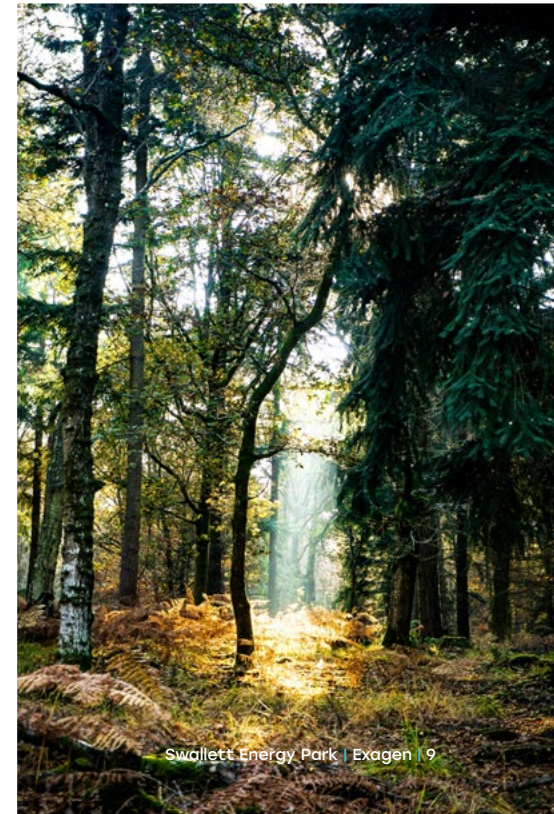
Reptile hibernacula and log piles to be located over the site in field margins.



Areas of new native species woodland will be planted to provide screening of views from certain residential properties and for longer term biodiversity.



We will engage with local bee keeping groups with a view to hosting bee hives on our site.

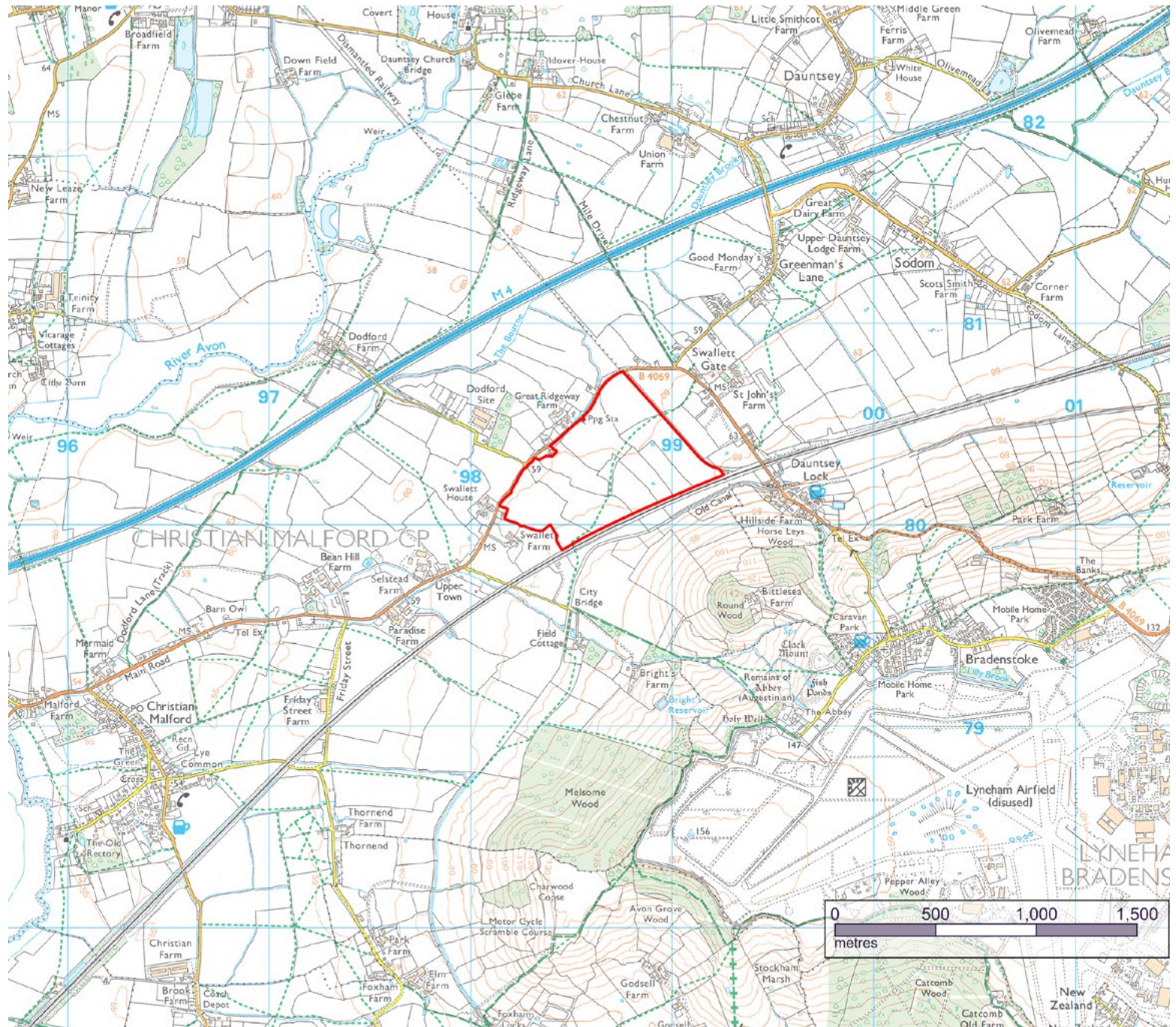


Swallett Energy Park

The proposed project boundary is highlighted in **RED** on the Ordnance Survey map.

The design for the development has not been completed. We are consulting with the council and undertaking this round of public consultation to better understand the key sensitivities and design considerations.

The final design will include appropriate offsets from residential receptors, including heritage assets, the right of way through the site and additional landscaping. Any potential sources of noise will also be located away from sensitive receptors.



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About Exagen

Exagen is a renewable energy developer, asset owner and asset manager, building the next generation of utility scale solar farms and grid-balancing battery storage facilities. That means we are involved in projects all the way through from origination through planning to construction and operation.

Details of the project team for the Swallett Energy Park are below.

The Exagen Development Team comprises of staff with more than 100 years of combined experience in development of renewable energy projects in the UK.



Mark Rowcroft
Managing Director

Edward Shuttleworth
Development Manager

Hugo Charteris
Project Development Coordinator

Andrew Mott
Planning Manager



Exagen is committed to creating a sustainable future and is working towards this goal with our projects.

To find out more about Exagen, this project and the work we do, please visit our website www.exagen.co.uk

Our partners





Energising a cleaner future