



Warm celebrations at 17th Century wedding and events venue

A stunning Grade II listed wedding and events venue is ensuring warm celebrations all year round, thanks to a ground source heat pump installed by Finn Geotherm.

Located just outside Norwich, Octagon Barn is an eight-sided barn which was originally built as a meeting chapel in the 1680s. The building had wings added at either end but, after falling out of use, it became a grain store and latterly a cattle barn. In 2008, owners Joe and Katie Wiley began an extensive refurbishment project to open it up for event hire.

Heating Octagon Barn was a challenge – the single skin walls, vast 5,000sq ft open space and 50ft high vaulted ceiling made distributing and retaining heat difficult and expensive. A diesel space heater was ineffective and noisy. The owners wanted a more sustainable solution for the barn and also two newly built 7,000sq ft commercial offices next door.

Joe Wiley, owner of Octagon Barn, said: "As a listed property, it wasn't viable to add extra insulation or cladding to improve heat loss without altering Octagon Barn's appearance. With a barn of this size, it wasn't practical to turn the heating on and off in-between events. We needed something to maintain a steady, warm temperature without costing a fortune."

Finn Geotherm specified and installed a Lämpöässä T120 ground source heat pump with 3000 litre thermal store. 6km of ground loop was laid via 16 loops in the field, with the pipes running underneath the car park. The

heat pump heats two very diverse properties with two very different heat requirements – the 17th Century barn and the new A* energy rating commercial offices. Heat is emitted in the barn through four large Jaga AVS fan units and throughout the barn toilets and offices using underfloor heating.

While a ground source heat pump was more expensive to install than a conventional boiler, it offers much lower running costs. The Non-domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) means the system will pay back in less than seven years.

Joe sums up: "This cost effective and energy efficient, passive ground source heating system has allowed us to convert the totally redundant Octagon Barn into a very successful venue for weddings, parties and conferences. The heat pump has been working perfectly to ensure our venue is always warm and welcoming. The adjacent offices are very comfortable too and our commercial tenants certainly enjoy the low heating bills!"

Key benefits

- Warm and welcoming environment all year round
- System payback in seven years
- Energy efficient and hassle-free heating
- No impact on appearance of the listed property

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