



WADDESDON MANOR



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Waddesdon Manor to become renewable energy trailblazer with the National Trust's largest ever Ground Source Heat Pump System

A major investment partnership between the National Trust and Rothschild Foundation will replace the Manor's ageing gas boilers with a modern ground source heat pump system proving that historic houses can lead the way in decarbonisation.

The project will cut carbon emissions by 124 tonnes a year while helping to conserve the Grade I listed building and its internationally significant art collection.

The National Trust and Rothschild Foundation have announced a partnership that will oversee the transition of Waddesdon Manor's reliance on fossil fuel heating to a state of the art, low carbon ground source heat pump (GSHP) system.

The Manor and its historic gardens are owned by the National Trust and managed by the Rothschild Foundation and this major project showcases their shared commitment to tackling the climate crisis and safeguarding the UK's heritage for future generations. It puts down an unmistakable marker of the

Rothschild Foundation's intentions for the future, with sustainability and the environment at the heart of the organisation's strategy, alongside art and community.

Waddesdon Manor's current gas heating system is over 25 years old, with seven boilers and three hot water cylinders burning almost one million kWh of gas a year. The GSHP will remove gas from the property entirely, cutting emissions by 124 tonnes a year and delivering over 500,000kWh of renewable heat annually.

An array of 46 vertical boreholes, each 160m deep, will be installed in the North Lawns in front of the Manor which will transfer natural heat from the ground to new heat pumps in the Manor basement that will provide heating for comfort and conservation as well as hot water throughout the building.

A GSHP solution was selected for its ability to minimize the visual impact on the house and create a stable environment inside the building, protecting the Manor's historic character, landscape and collections. Once the works are complete there will be no evidence of the underground network of pipes and no emissions on site.

The first phase of the project will begin in August 2026, with the drilling of the boreholes. All the installation work is being carried out with great care and consideration for the Manor's heritage sensitivities, overseen by a team of conservation and renewable energy specialists.

The internal work will start in November 2026, with the project scheduled to be completed by April 2027.

As part of the project the mains gas supply will be removed, making the site safer and reducing the Manor's exposure to volatile gas prices caused by global geopolitical events.

The GSHP will also help to preserve Waddesdon Manor's collection of art, furniture and other important historic objects by providing a constant, stable temperature in the house, eliminating spikes and dips, whether the house is open or closed to the public.

Paul Cook, Project Sponsor and Assistant Director of Operations at the National Trust, says: *"This project is a major step forward in our ambition to reduce carbon emissions across our estate. Working with the Rothschild Foundation allows us to safeguard Waddesdon Manor's heritage while embracing modern, renewable technologies that will protect it for generations to come."*

Pippa Shirley, Project Sponsor and Director of Waddesdon Manor for the Rothschild Foundation says *"We are all greatly looking forward to this bold project to enable the Manor to run more sustainably and preserve its extraordinary collections, working in partnership with the National Trust. It expresses more clearly than any words the Rothschild Foundation and the National Trust's determination to put conservation, stewardship and the environment at the heart of their long-term strategy. It's also an opportunity for us to explain and talk about sustainable systems with the public and to show that they are possible to achieve even in a historic listed building. I know that our visitors will be as excited as we are by this statement of faith in all our futures."*

The Manor and grounds will remain open to the public for as much of the project as possible. The North Lawn will be closed while the borehole drilling and groundworks take place. Pre-arrival information will explain changes ahead of a visit, with clear signage, interpretation panels and online updates to engage visitors as the project progresses.

The house and gardens will close to the public on 29th November 2026, so that internal works and upgrades to the electricity supply can take place.

The Manor will be closed for the winter season, including Christmas, to allow the works to be completed, ready for re-opening in March and for the celebrations of its 150th anniversary throughout 2027.

NOTES TO EDITORS

IMAGES FOR MEDIA USE CAN BE DOWNLOADED HERE [Waddesdon Manor's North Lawn](#)

Waddesdon Manor –The Manor is a world where art, history and nature meet. Created from 1874 by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, the French-inspired chateau was built for beauty, for a collection, and for entertaining. Today its doors open wide to reveal masterpieces and curiosities, sweeping gardens, and hidden corners, stories that surprise and details that delight. The Manor is a living emblem of the work of the Rothschild Foundation: a family charitable trust active in the arts, community, nature and sustainability. In partnership with the National Trust, Waddesdon Manor is more than a historic house: it is a place of imagination and encounter, sustained and kept vibrant for each generation. A place to escape the everyday – a home for discovery and an inspiration for the world – where you can truly experience the extraordinary.

For more information on Waddesdon Manor and its exhibitions, visit www.waddesdon.org.uk, like @WaddesdonManor on Facebook, and follow @waddesdonmanor_nt on Instagram.

National Trust – The National Trust is an independent conservation charity founded in 1895 to preserve historic and natural places in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and open them up for everyone to enjoy. 131 years later and that mission is still at the heart of what we do. Over the next decade, our cause will be delivered through our [People & Nature Thriving strategy](#). We have three ambitious goals: to restore nature – not just on National Trust land, but everywhere; to end unequal access to nature, beauty and history; and to inspire millions more people to care and take action. With our 5.3m members, 40,000 volunteers, and our supporters, partners and communities, we collectively represent a cause that's bigger than just ourselves: it's about caring for nature and heritage everywhere, for everyone, for ever.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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