

# FILON® roofscape

Your regular update from the leader in GRP building products

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preach –  
reducing our  
own carbon  
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# The green issue

PLUS: • FILON at Interbuild • Case Studies • New valley gutters • And more...

# Welcome to **roofscape**



**Nine months into the year and 2007 looks set to be remembered as the year the whole industry got the 'sustainability bug'. The carbon footprint and green issues in general are making the headlines. All of us in the industry are now claiming to be greener than green in all aspects of our businesses. What I believe makes FILON different, is that we've been applying sustainable practices and flying the 'green' flag**

**as a matter of course for many years.**

**For example, back in the early 80's we recognised the growing importance of alternative energy and developed a system of GRP solar panels – many of which are still in use.**

**Again in the early 80's we were already producing energy efficient rooflights with U-values to meet standards required by today's Building Regulations.**

**We've always maintained a strict energy policy within our plants, as part of our manufacturing controls. More recently, we've initiated further measures to reduce our carbon footprint and to address other sustainability issues – more about these in this issue of Roofscape.**

**For us, it's not a case of jumping on the green bandwagon. We're just carrying on as usual - but now we're shouting about it a little louder!**

David Hathaway F.I.o.R.  
Director of Sales, FILON Products

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## Visit FILON at Interbuild 07 Stand A130, Hall 5

FILON will be showing a comprehensive selection of products from its continually expanding range at this year's Interbuild show at the NEC

"Interbuild provides a great

opportunity for specifiers to get a hands-on preview of some of our latest innovations, as well as a reminder of the breadth of our rooflight range", said David Hathaway, Director of Sales.

He continued: "There will be a large rooflight display, featuring our well-known GRP rooflights, as well as our new SunModul Finesse polycarbonate system."

Technical advisers from the company will also be on hand to discuss FILON products with reference to Part L compliance and other legislation.

Visitors will also get a chance to see FILON's innovative TecnaFlex flat roofing system, plus the company's latest breakthrough: Flextrim – a unique range of universal uPVC roof trims designed for use with most flat roofing system including the company's TecnaFlex system.

Roof refurbishment systems on display include FILON's proven DR and over-roofing sheets. FILON manufactures these to match any profile, for cost-effective refurbishment or replacement of steel or asbestos cement profiled roofs.

Make sure you call in on FILON Products, on stand A130, Hall 5, at Interbuild 07. ◆



There's lots to see on the FILON stand at Interbuild.

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# Daylight by Design



London's Business Design centre has undergone a major roof refurbishment by Letchworth Roofing, with new insulated rooflights from FILON Products.

The large curved roof at both the apex and the main slopes had previously been formed from double-skin rooflights which were approaching the end of their useful life expectancy. The rooflights were inefficient as ageing had reduced their natural daylight transmittance.

The insulation to the whole roof area was in need of updating to reach modern standards with heat loss

and insulation being a significant concern.

Letchworth Roofing submitted a number of technical schemes and cost options for consideration.

It was agreed that the existing rooflights should be replaced with FILON FAIRS (factory-assembled insulated rooflight system). This triple-skin GRP rooflight system provides a U-value in excess of 2.2W/m<sup>2</sup>K, to easily meet the requirements of The Building Regulations Part L2A. The outer skin was specified as FILON Supasafe reinforced sheet, to

ensure 'man-safe' rooflights for the life expectancy of the new roof covering.

The curved FILON FAIRS rooflights installed on the main slopes were specifically designed for the project, incorporating unique flexible "hinges" where fixed to the purlins. This allowed the rooflights to assume the curvature of the roof. The end result is that the main hall is now much lighter and brighter, providing a greatly enhanced environment for the Centre's visitors and occupants. ◆



*FILON rooflights were specifically designed for the curved roof.*



## Brighter future for Welsh warehouse

FILON Products supplied 120 of its triple-skin FAIRS (factory assembled insulated rooflights), totalling over 880m<sup>2</sup> for this large warehouse in Bridgend, South Wales.

The rooflights were designed specifically to suit the composite panel system of the existing roof, which had previously covered the entire building without the inclusion of any rooflights. All the internal illumination was previously provided by electric lighting,

resulting in a gloomy internal environment and a very high energy requirement - unacceptable by today's standards.

Following installation of the rooflights, the warehouse has been transformed, with diffused daylight providing excellent illumination and reducing the need for artificial lighting.

The outer skin was specified as FILON Supasafe reinforced sheet, to ensure a completely 'man-safe' roof surface. ◆



Productivity

Emissions

# Higher productivity, lower emissions

## Just how does FILON do it?



FILON supports NARM's campaign to increase rooflight areas

Since the company moved to new premises in 2005, FILON has repeatedly broken its own trading records. A healthy 20% growth in turnover is confidently expected for 2007/8. And yet, despite this increased productivity, FILON is successfully lowering carbon emissions from its Burntwood factory. How?

### Energy efficiency gains

Electrical drives operating various machinery within the FILON factory

have been upgraded to frequency inverter drives, a well established technology designed to match the energy delivered, to the load. This creates huge energy savings in continuous processes like those used by FILON.

### Practicing what we preach

Perhaps even more significantly, the company has recently made another investment to reduce energy consumption. New FILON rooflights have been installed to

increase light levels in the factory.

Recent research by NARM, the National Association of Rooflight Manufacturers, has revealed that rooflights make a positive contribution to reducing carbon emissions, by reducing the requirement for electric lighting. By installing the new rooflights in the factory, FILON has made a major impact on the working environment in the factory, as well as further reductions in energy consumption.

The combined effect of FILON's energy policy has resulted in energy savings estimated to be in the region of 50% compared with the same period last year – a massive contribution to reduced carbon emissions. These are tested on a daily basis as part of the company's policy of operating within the standards set by ISO 14001. FILON's ISO 14001 accreditation should be confirmed in December 2007. ✿

## Saving our most precious resource...

Water is our most precious resource. Without it life cannot be sustained. Worryingly, the combined effects of global warming, increasing population and irresponsible water management, are placing increasing pressure on global reserves of water.

As part of FILON's ongoing

commitment to sustainability, the company has invested in a highly efficient waste water recycling system for its manufacturing process.

FILON's manufacturing plant uses around 30,000 litres of water per day. Before the recycling plant was installed, this meant the factory was consuming around 7,200,000 litres

per year – a significant drain on an increasingly precious commodity. With the new recycling plant operational, this figure has been reduced by more than 95%.

If manufacturing industry around the world could commit to similar initiatives, our global water worries would be all but forgotten. ✿



# Recycle & re-use

## FILON's commitment to waste reduction

The strength and durability of GRP make it an excellent material for all kinds of building products. GRP roofing, rooflights and cladding offer lifespans in excess of thirty years - and often, significantly more. But what happens to GRP sheeting when it's reached the end of its lifecycle?

Currently, a lot of discarded building materials are disposed of in landfill sites. To address this and establish more sustainable alternatives, FILON has assembled a team of experts led by Production Manager Holger Wassink and Technical Manager Steve Vickers.

### Thinking outside the box

"We're currently evaluating a number of options for recycling and re-use of GRP", said Holger. "Conventional wisdom says that the hardness and abrasiveness of the fibres within GRP sheeting make it uneconomical to recycle, but we're 'thinking outside the box', with some interesting possibilities."

Reducing the material for re-use as a component part in other processes is just one of the options the company is exploring. Re-use of sheets is another area under consideration. "Re-use of GRP sheeting is already happening in many ways", said Holger. He continued: "I've seen old FILON sheets used as cloches, fence panels and drainage gullies, for a start. An internet-based free exchange scheme for re-useable materials could greatly increase this sort of re-use. This is another idea we're researching."

### Waste reduction at FILON's factory

FILON's recycling initiatives also apply to scrap from the manufacturing process, as well as packaging materials and office waste. "Staff in the factory are all pulling together to make sure our recycling programmes are being adhered to", said Holger. For example, all packaging from incoming materials is either re-used

for outgoing products or separated for recycling.

The company is to produce a yearly environmental report as part of its ISO 14001 system, containing details of initiatives and ongoing progress toward greater sustainability.

For more information visit [www.filon.co.uk](http://www.filon.co.uk). 🍀



*Holger Wassink, Production Manager, FILON Products*

# Extending a wildlife habitat

FILON Products moved to its current factory in Burntwood, Staffordshire in 2005. The 4.5 acre site borders Cannock Chase - an area of outstanding natural beauty (AONB) designated in 1958, the year after FILON was formed.

Immediately next to the site is a large lake which is understood to

be a pit originally excavated by the national coal board and left dormant some years ago. This lake and the surrounding area is now home to an abundance of wildlife, including many species of fish and birds, as well as foxes, rabbits, hedgehogs and other small mammals.

Julie Cox, FILON's Financial Director takes up the story. "The factory and adjoining car park account for the main part of the site, but there's a large area adjoining the lake, which has no real function for the business, so we decided to create a wildlife habitat - to effectively extend the area available to wildlife around

the lake."

An area of approximately 400m<sup>2</sup> of concrete paving was broken up and has been planted with wild flower seeds. Further grass areas have been left to



*Julie Cox, Financial Director, FILON Products*

grow, to encourage wild flowers to seed and encourage insects such as butterflies to colonise the area.

There were over twenty trees on the site before the programme started. More trees have been planted, including one grown from a crab apple taken from the company's former factory at Streetly, when the company moved.

As the trees grow and the ground cover vegetation becomes more

established, the company intends to place nest boxes for birds.

"This is an ongoing project", said Julie. "As we learn more about the creatures that colonise the site, I'm sure we'll be able to make further improvements to encourage more."

The site has already attracted foxes, rabbits, various species of waterfowl and other smaller birds, butterflies and other insects. 🍀

# NEW V-flow valley gutters

FILON has launched a new range of valley gutters under the V-flow brand name. The company has over 50 years experience in producing GRP (Glass Reinforced Polyester) products, during which time it has supplied more than one million metres of valley gutters.

The new V-flow GRP gutter range has excellent benefits from the point of view of cost savings, adaptability, longevity and ease of use and is the most natural alternative to lead. Coloured slate grey, the valleys offer a convincing simulation of lead, providing attractive detailing to all kinds of pitched roofs.

The range includes valleys for use with both slate or tiles whether they be clay or concrete, as well as being adaptable for metal or fibre cement roofs. The range can be used with either dry or wet fixings

and also includes a jointing unit for bonding between two roofs where a separate join is required, as well as an abutment flashing unit for hidden gutters against abutment walls.

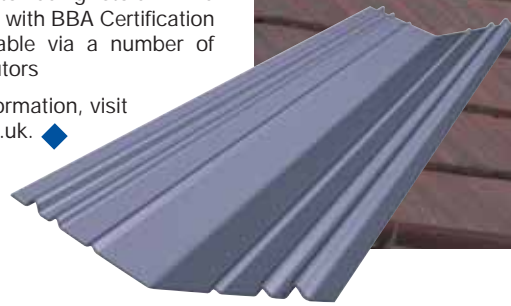
This tried and tested product is quick and easy to install and has a proven lifespan of at least 30 years, giving peace of mind to specifiers and building owners.

Another important benefit is that with no scrap value it is not susceptible to being stolen. The range comes with BBA Certification and is available via a number of Filon Distributors

For more information, visit [www.filon.co.uk](http://www.filon.co.uk).



V-flow valley insitu on a concrete tiled roof



# NEW Flextrim system 'works brilliantly'

FILON's new Flextrim universal roof trim system has been praised by installers as "a really practical new innovation".

The new system is designed to combine the attractive, high quality finish of uPVC, with the cost-effectiveness of GRP flat roofing.

Flex-trim trims are similar in appearance and installed in virtually the same way as conventional hand laid and pultruded profiles, but that's where the similarity ends.

With their unique jointing strip, Flex-trim profiles allow a permanent high strength bond to GRP laminate and are suitable for use with other liquid-laid and single-ply roofing systems.

The Flex-trim bonding strip comprises a series of raised, inverted triangular section strips. In its liquid state, the GRP laminate fills the gaps between these. When the laminate sets, the triangular sections lock into the set laminate to provide a permanent bond. No

top coat is required - and cellophane masking strips pre-applied to the edge of the bonding strip, provide convenient overpaint protection for visible areas.

"This new system has really fulfilled its promise", said Bharat Ghandi, Filon's Quality Manager. "It's incredibly simple to install and the bond with the GRP laminate appears to be virtually unbreakable. Above all, it provides a really smart finish, making customers very appreciative of our efforts."

The Flextrim range comprises four trim profiles to suit a wide range of applications. All are available as standard in lead grey. All except the simulated lead trim are also available in white. The trims are complemented by a range of integrated corner sections allowing easy installation in a wide range of configurations.

For more information, please visit [www.filon.co.uk](http://www.filon.co.uk)

Flextrim installation, Bristol.



**Flex-trim**  
Universal Roof Trim & Bonding

NEW

**The uPVC trims you can use with GRP roofing!**

The only alternative to the lead and stone granule top coat of lead roofs. The unique high quality finish of uPVC trim, and the flexibility, longevity and cost-effectiveness of GRP roofing.

**Be ready to go!**  
 • Instantly formable uPVC for high strength finish with GRP  
 • High quality surface finish  
 • Wide range of black & colours  
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 • Quick, easy installation  
 • BS EN 12526:2001 quality guaranteed

For details, call the UK Filon Distributor  
**01543 687300**  
www.filon.co.uk

**FILON**  
Since 1968

# 50 years trading: FILON celebrates in style

FILON has just celebrated 50 years of continuous manufacturing in the United Kingdom, with two separate events.

The first, at the Black County Living Museum in the West Midlands, was held for clients and suppliers, to thank them for their support over the years. The venue was a big success with guests who generally agreed it was an ideal and very appropriate location with its focus on manufacturing in the West Midlands – of which FILON Products is still very much a part.

In a brief presentation, David Hathaway, FILON's Director of Sales, took the guests back through the years showing just some of the many products that FILON has developed. Ron Allen, Managing Director, went on to explain how FILON has grown over the 50 years and he outlined some of the company's many high profile application successes. Ron also highlighted plans for the coming year, including more new products and manufacturing initiatives. Following the presentations, guests enjoyed a buffet lunch, before

exploring the many fascinating exhibits of the museum.

The second event was a Family Fun Day held at FILON's premises for employees and their families – present and past. The weather was extremely kind on the day and over 150 guests enjoyed the food and entertainment which consisted of a funfair and an exhibition of past and present products, as well as a display of photographs of employees from the early days to the current workforce. ◆



FILON employees past and present joined the company for a fun day at the factory

## Visit FILON on-line

To find out more about any of the products featured in *Roofscape*, visit FILON Products on-line at [www.filon.co.uk](http://www.filon.co.uk).

"The site has been configured to provide fast and easy access to many different kinds of information, from product data and company news to legislation, case studies and much more", said Dave Hathaway, Director of Sales. He continued: "Our aim with the site is to provide a really comprehensive data resource for specifiers."

Many people know FILON for it's core product: rooflights. However, FILON manufactures many more products from flat roofing systems to sign substrates. The website provides an overview of the complete range of products manufactured by the company. ◆



Visit FILON on-line at [www.filon.co.uk](http://www.filon.co.uk)

## Comprehensive NEW Rooflights technical catalogue

FILON Products has published a new technical document covering the company's rooflight range.

The document provides detailed technical data for all FILON rooflights, as well as generic rooflight information for specifiers.

Technical drawings and installation information are included, as well as a useful specification table for HSE compliance.

Part L compliance is comprehensively covered, with sections detailing new build and refurbishment applications.

For a copy of this document, please call us on 01543 687300. ◆



## CPD accredited Part L Seminars

To book or receive details on the following seminars please contact FILON's marketing department on 01543 687300.

- **ASBESTOS REGULATION AND THE BUILDING REGULATIONS PART L IN RESPECT OF REFURBISHMENT**
- **ROOFLIGHTS - THE NEW BUILDING REGULATIONS PART L, PLUS THE CDM REGULATIONS AND HOW THEY AFFECT ROOFLIGHTS**



Informal and informative - FILON seminars

# roo**FILON**lights and Part L:

Compliance is easy  
when you specify  
FILON rooflights

Draw on FILON's experience and technical knowledge for a rooflight specification that will help your building achieve the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions targets set in the new Part L2A Building Regulations.

- Rooflight areas up to 20% make a positive contribution to compliance
- Triple skin rooflights with U-values of 2.2W/m<sup>2</sup>K or better
- Rooflights available to match virtually any profiled sheet - even discontinued profiles

For product information or technical support, call us now on 01543 687 300

**FILON**<sup>®</sup>

[www.filon.co.uk](http://www.filon.co.uk)

