

FILON®

# roofscape

Your regular update from the leader in GRP building products



**ROOFLIGHTS  
INCORPORATING  
RECYCLED  
GRP**

ANOTHER FIRST FOR FILON

**PLUS:**

**NEW**  
New FILON  
flat roofing system  
– complete with  
rooflights

Simulated lead  
valley gutters  
with recycled  
content

**NEW**

**NEW**  
Finesse  
polycarbonate  
rooflight range  
expands

How FILON's new  
Fixsafe system is  
changing working  
practices

# Welcome to **roofscape**



*Despite the current economic downturn, we at FILON are continuing to move forward with exciting new developments which will help our customers to provide competitive, sustainable solutions to all kinds of construction and refurbishment challenges. In this issue of Roofscape, you can find out more about our revolutionary GRP recycling process which enables us to register another development first: rooflights manufactured using waste GRP recovered from the manufacturing process. We are now assessing a scheme to recycle old rooflights using the same technology. In this issue, you can also read about our new liquid-applied GRP flat roofing system, available with a range of modular rooflights – and our new range of Finesse Plus barrel vault rooflights. With these new introductions, we are now able to offer our customers virtually any currently available rooflight configuration, plus a huge range of quality sheet materials and building products. All these developments come hot on the heels of our recent launch of the Fixsafe internal fixing system for roofing sheets and rooflights. This important new innovation is helping to greatly improve safety for roofers, who have traditionally been the most at-risk sector of the construction workforce. The Fixsafe system simplifies the whole process, to save time and money as well as lives... another FILON innovation that's contributing to better building – and better buildings.*

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

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**Apologies to NRS Specialist Services Ltd** whose details we printed incorrectly in issue 7 of Roofscape.

Their correct contact details are:

**NRS Specialist Services Ltd**  
Units 2-3, 14 Enterprise Centre  
Lysander Road, Bowerhill  
Melksham  
Wiltshire SN12 6SP  
Tel: 01225 709340

## Recession - the way forward

**FILON Products has issued a positive report outlining the company's plans for efficiency gains that will enable the company to prosper despite the economic downturn.**

The report states: "With 52 years of trading under our belt we have built up a very large distributor network and we work regularly with roofing contractors, main contractors, surveyors, architects, local authorities and many private clients. This increasing diversity, together with our continual new product innovation, has

necessitated a new, more flexible and responsive approach to customer contact. With greater emphasis on our highly experienced internal sales team and reduced field sales calls, we will be able to improve our services, whilst reducing costs and slashing our carbon footprint (we travelled nearly 250,000 miles last year visiting clients).

This initiative is supported by investments in communications and IT as well as continual upgrading of the vast amount of data available on our website which

is proving an invaluable source of information for customers.

Our internal sales team comprises friendly, knowledgeable staff who are well trained in all aspects of FILON Products.

Our other initiatives will soon become apparent and we welcome any feedback that you can give on our efforts so as to improve on our already high standards. We all look forward to reinforcing our customer relationships and providing even better quality and value, across all our services and products." ♦

## STOP PRESS Roof Safety CPD Seminars featuring the new Fixsafe system

**FILON Products will be exhibiting and presenting CPD Seminars at the forthcoming DCE Building Solutions Exhibitions in London and Basildon.**

The seminars will outline the safety improvements and cost savings brought about by the new system which allows profiled roof sheets and rooflights to be replaced with all work carried out safely from the underside of the roof. FILON will also be launching its new rooflights

incorporating recycled GRP.

**The exhibition and seminar dates and venues are:**

16th June 2009  
Building Centre, Store Street  
London WC1E7BT  
Seminar time: 3.15pm

18th June 2009  
Holiday Inn  
Waterfront Walk  
Festival Leisure Park SS14 3DG  
Seminar time: 2.30pm



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# New FILON flat roofing has it covered!



**FILON Products has launched a comprehensive new flat roofing range with options and accessories to meet virtually any flat roofing requirement.**

The new range utilises a liquid-applied GRP roof membrane, together with a choice of pre-formed trims and flashings.

### Liquid assets

Liquid applied roofing offers a key advantage over traditional flat roof coverings such as felt, in that there are no joints. FILON Flat Roofing is a glassfibre reinforced polymer that chemically fuses to the substrate and cures to form a tough, totally seamless and waterproof membrane with a degree of inherent flexibility, to allow for structural movement.

The system can be mixed with various pigments to provide a variety of different coloured roof finishes including the popular lead grey, which mimics the appearance of a traditional lead roof.

The toughness and durability of GRP roofing makes it ideal for all kinds of buildings and particularly well suited to applications where there may be a risk of vandalism, such as schools.

### Edge trims & flashings - the choice is yours

The FILON Flat Roofing range gives you the flexibility to choose the trims that best suit your application and budget.

### Integrated rooflights

To complement the Flat Roofing system, FILON's new FiloDome range comprises a complete line of modular dome and pyramid rooflights in a variety of sizes and configurations, with multi-skin glazing to meet the requirements of the Building Regulations. Inner and outer skins are glazed in impact resistant polycarbonate and outer skins are UV protected for long service life without discolouration or loss of impact resistance.

### GRP roofing - a proven winner

GRP has been used as a waterproofing material for over fifty years, in applications as diverse as boats, vehicle bodies, ponds, pools and water tanks. During this period, FILON has been at the forefront of development of GRP products for building and construction and now offers the UK's widest range of GRP building products.

FILON's new Flat Roofing range draws on this heritage to provide a durable, long lasting system that's cost-effective and easy to install. ♦

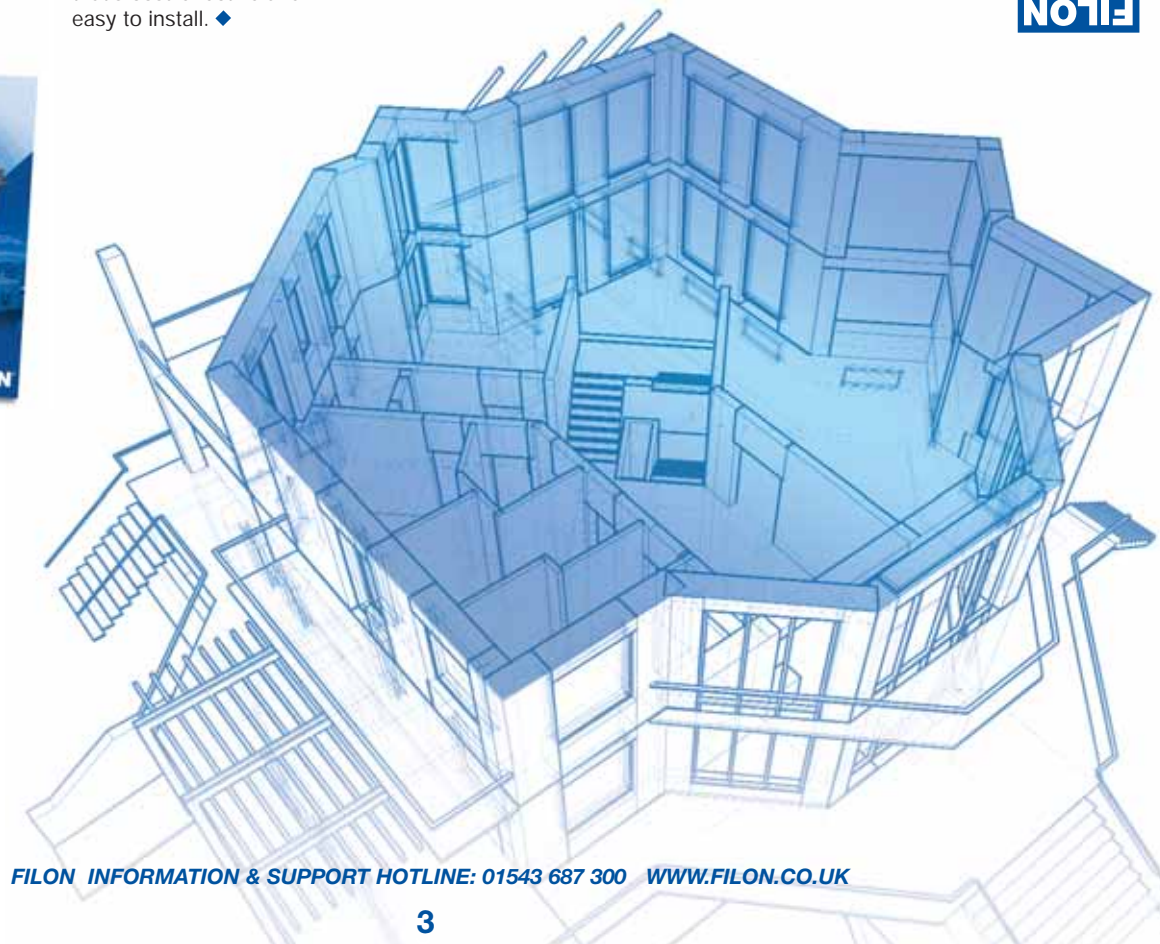


*FILON's new FiloDome modular rooflights are now available as part of the FILON Flat Roofing range*



*FILON Flat Roofing literature can be downloaded from the FILON website at [www.filon.co.uk](http://www.filon.co.uk)*

**Flat roofing**  
**FILON**



# FILON's sustainable manufacturing breakthrough: rooflights incorporating recycled GRP

**GRP (Glass Reinforced Polyester) is a notoriously difficult material to break down - and for many years it has been widely regarded that the only viable option for disposing of waste GRP, was landfill. Until now...**

In line with FILON's commitment to sustainable manufacturing, the company has undertaken a major investment programme to develop an effective means of recycling waste GRP from the production process.

## Recycling is GO at FILON

Following many years of research and subsequent practical trials, FILON's unique new GRP recycling plant is now complete and fully operational. The plant enables a two-stage process by which the GRP can be cost-effectively reduced, first to small flakes of approximately 10mm<sup>2</sup>, then to a fine powder. The material in both of these states can be recycled for use in manufacturing processes.

Ron Allen, FILON Products' Managing Director said: "As far as we are aware, we are the first

company in the UK to be able to fully recycle our own GRP waste products. This development will make a significant contribution to the company's future and will also reduce pressure on landfill sites"

## Return on investment

The new GRP recycling unit is housed in a building adjacent to FILON's factory in Burntwood, Staffordshire. The nature of the process required that the recycling plant be kept separate from FILON's main manufacturing facility.

Mr Allen commented: "Our investment has been significant and such is the demand for products that contain a recycled content we committed to achieving this in 2009 - which we have done. Eliminating manufacturing waste will enable us to maintain our

competitive market position in what is becoming an increasingly demanding climate".

## Product performance

Tests at FILON have indicated that a percentage of recycled material has no detrimental effect on the performance of GRP products, in terms of strength, light transmission, light diffusion, or durability.

The company is reviewing its product range and will soon be launching rooflights and other roofing products that contain varying degrees of recycled material. FILON is also selling recycled GRP for use in other manufacturing processes.

## Vision for the future

Having now overcome the challenge of how to break down

GRP for recycling, FILON's next mission, is to apply this technology to recycle GRP products that have reached the end of their working life.

"Our vision is to provide a free recycling service for end-of-life GRP products within the next few years, but there's more work to be done before that can happen. That's the next challenge for our R&D team." Said Mr. Allen. He continued: "In the meantime, I'm proud that we've achieved another first in the GRP manufacturing industry, with something that makes a genuine contribution to sustainability. It's another indication of our commitment to innovation as the engine that drives us forward." ♦

“They said it couldn't be done... that GRP was too hard and abrasive to be recycled cost-effectively. We've proved the doubters wrong.”

**Ron Allen**  
Managing Director, FILON Products

1 Waste GRP is taken from the production line and fed into the recycling plant on-site at FILON's Burntwood facility.



*The recycling plant at FILON's Burntwood facility utilises state-of-the-art machinery to process waste GRP from the manufacturing process. The recycled material is also stored here prior to despatch to the FILON production line next door, or to other manufacturing plants.*



# breakthrough: g recycled GRP

NEW

**2** The GRP sheet is first reduced to approximately 10mm<sup>2</sup> flakes. These can be used in other processes or can undergo secondary reduction.



**3** Following secondary reduction, the GRP is reduced to fine powder which can be incorporated into new GRP products.



## Recycled content for new valley gutters

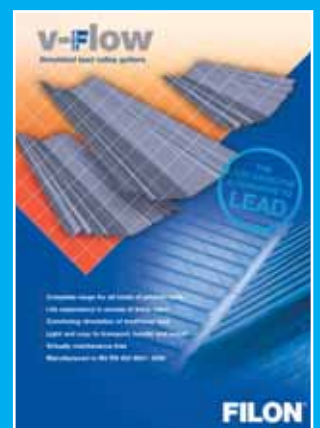
'FILON's V-Flow simulated lead valley gutters will be one of the first new products to incorporate the recycled material obtained from the new FILON recycling plant.

These, along with a new range of dry fix valleys which will also contain the recycled material, come onto the market in early May 2009.

Available through selected FILON distributors, these products are a fraction of the weight of lead and are supplied in convenient 3 metre lengths enabling easy transportation and handling on site.

The V-Flow gutters are easy to cut and sufficiently flexible to allow for a variety of roof pitches.

UV protected surfaces on all the products ensure excellent protection against weathering and discoloration. Life expectancy is in excess of 20 years. ♦



**Finesse**  
**FILON**

# FILON's thermoplastic barrel vault rooflights are clear winners

Since its introduction in 2007, FILON's Sun Modul Finesse range of thermoplastic barrel vault rooflights has been specified to bring natural light to all kinds of premises, from dental surgery waiting rooms, to schools and offices.

The system features multi-wall polycarbonate panels which are hooked onto steel channels and firmly locked with specially designed polycarbonate clip profiles that provide excellent characteristics for the creation of translucent surfaces for any kind of modern building.

The glazing panels provide excellent light transmission and thermal insulation and are practically unbreakable. With an advanced UV resistant surface coating, weather resistance and long life span are guaranteed. The PC clip profiles are produced with the same technical characteristics as the panels.

The galvanised and plastic coated steel channels are designed to provide very high rigidity, allowing wide, unsupported spans to be easily accommodated.

**NEW FINESSE PLUS**

Joining the Sun Modul Finesse range is FILON's new Finesse Plus range of barrel vault rooflights featuring solid thermoplastic glazing in a range of colours. These top quality rooflights utilise a modular system of aluminium extrusions which can be supplied in the standard mill finish, or in any polyester powder coat colour.

For full details of Finesse rooflights, please contact FILON today. ♦



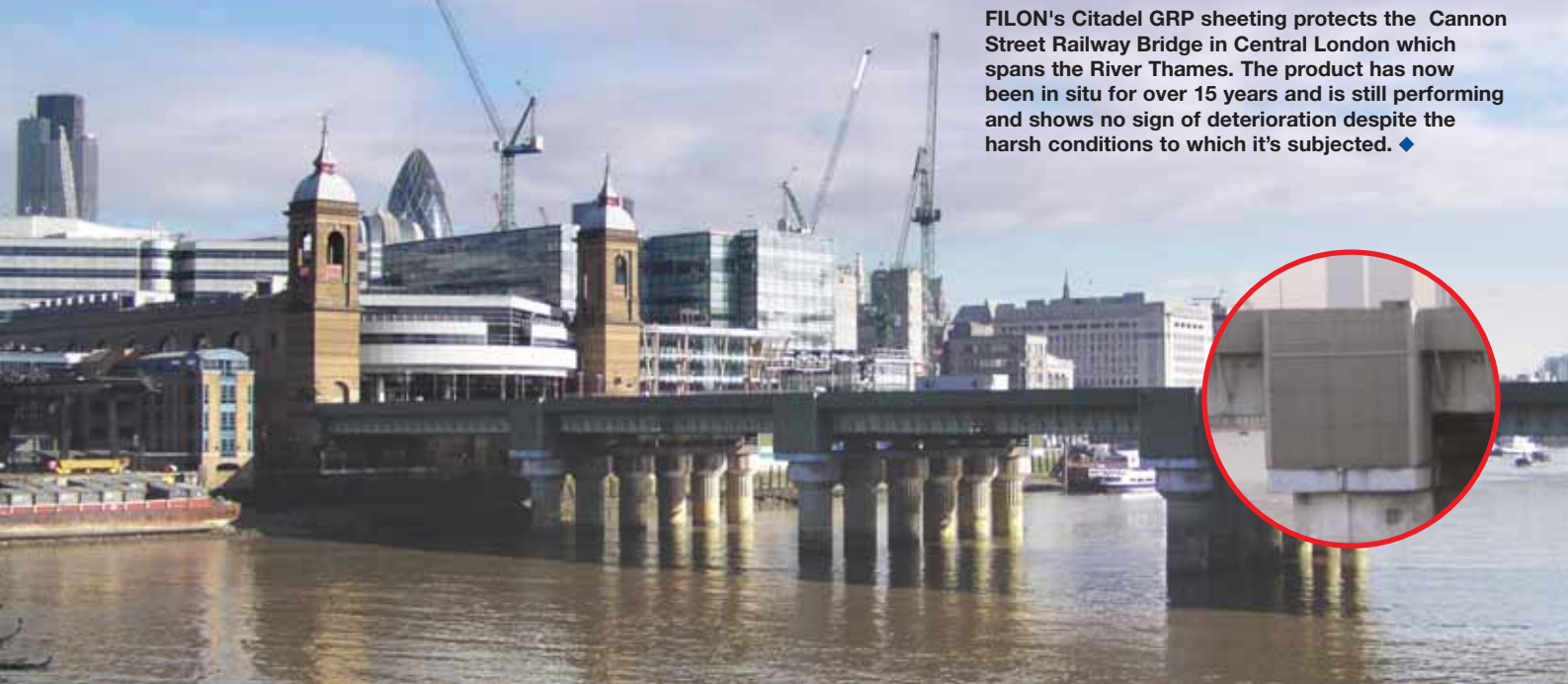
*Below: FILON's new Finesse Plus rooflights feature solid polycarbonate glazing, giving excellent light transmission with a high quality appearance*

*Top: Six barrel vaults on these premises in Sussex were replaced with Sun Modul Finesse units which were fixed directly to the existing upstands. Above: Sun Modul Finesse units were installed by Valent Roofing on this standing seam roof project in the North of England.*



## FILON GRP cladding stands the test of time on London's Cannon Street railway bridge

FILON's Citadel GRP sheeting protects the Cannon Street Railway Bridge in Central London which spans the River Thames. The product has now been in situ for over 15 years and is still performing and shows no sign of deterioration despite the harsh conditions to which it's subjected. ♦



## 'Instant' refurbishment for midlands joinery factory

Walsall based Stephens Roofing Limited used FILON's patented GRP over-roofing system to refurbish the fascia cladding at this midlands joinery factory.

The existing asbestos cladding had been in place for many years and had been repaired a number of times, giving an unsightly appearance and allowing water ingress.

The contract required no planning permission as the GRP sheets were made to match the existing metal cladding.

The existing cladding was overlaid using FILON's patented Profix spacer, which resulted in the new surface protruding by only an additional 25mm.

This allowed for a simple, problem-free installation that was completed in just two days.

FILON over-roofing is available to match virtually any metal or asbestos cement profile. ♦



Before (above) and after (right). FILON over-roofing provides a new lease of life for this joinery factory.

## FILON sheeting meets turbine house specification

FILON sheeting was used to replace vertical glazing on this 69 metre high building at a Scottish power station in a very very exposed location.

The FILON sheeting was chosen for its ability to withstand the extremes of weather in the area, which had been the cause of significant damage to the glazed areas in previous years.

The FILON sheet also met the client's requirements in terms of fire certification and longevity. ♦



# Roof work is safer with Fixsafe!

# Fixsafe

FILON



1. Removing hook bolts

**SAVES LIVES & SAVES COSTS!**



2. Extracting existing sheet



3. Drilling Fixsafe sheet, using old sheet as template



4. Installing fixings



5. Locating Fixsafe sheet



6. Securing fixings



7. Finished installation

By removing the need to access dangerous fragile roofs, FILON's new Fixsafe internal fixing system for profiled roof sheets and rooflights is making a real contribution to site safety, as well as reducing costs. Here are some examples of how the system has changed working practices since its introduction last year...

**Client:** National Property Management Company

**Contract value:** Approx. £12,000

**Scope of work:** Fitting approximately 50 GRP rooflights using Fixsafe system at two factory units as part of refurbishment work

**Reasons for use of Fixsafe:**

- Client had strong views on Health & Safety and was nervous of allowing any foot traffic on the fragile asbestos roofs.
- The traditional option would have involved full external independent platform scaffold, complete internal net safety system with standby mobile 'cherry-picker' for personnel recovery and an elaborate roof staging system.
- The Fixsafe system provided considerable cost and time savings.

**Client:** National Property Developer

**Contract Value:** Approx. £3,000

**Scope of work:** Replacing failed rooflights over a busy transport warehouse

**Reasons for use of Fixsafe:**

- The roof had a very steep pitch and contractor Letchworth Roofing insisted on the use of a mobile 'cherry-picker' to act as a 'skyhook', as

recommended in HSG33. The size of 'cherry-picker' required for this project presented two specific problems:

- It would be a danger to low flying aircraft at the adjacent airport.
- Cost. The traditional alternative involved full internal safety net, retrieval system and edge protection, costing three times more than Fixsafe.

**Client:** Aircraft restoration Company

**Contract Value:** £30,000

**Scope of work:** Fitting 16 runs of replacement rooflights on a metal composite sheeted building.

**Reasons for use of Fixsafe:**

- Traditional rooflight replacement would have involved closing the building to the public. The use of the Fixsafe system allowed the work to be undertaken in confined areas with limited disruption.
- Avoided need to move priceless aircraft with significant insurance risk.
- Roof access option requiring roof staging, safety netting and external scaffolding was £10,000 more expensive.
- Safer and quicker method of fitting replacement rooflights.

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