

Metal In Action

KNOTT OAK DAIRY FARM, SOMERSET FILON PRODUCTS LIMITED



Over 300 square metres of Filon fair assembled insulating rooflights (FAIRs) double skin GRP rooflights have been installed on a new, high technology cow shed with integral milking parlour units at Knott Oak Dairy Farm in Ilminster, Somerset.

The installation by PH Hardwill Ltd of Beaminster, Dorset, is part of Dillington Estate's £2.5 million investment in an advanced robotic milking facility in which the cows are free to move around the舍 and access milking robots when they wish – not at specific times. This 'free cow traffic' approach provides improved quality and yield from the dairy, as well as excellent animal wellbeing.

Maintaining appropriate conditions for the cows inside the building also plays an important part in animal welfare and productivity. Filon rooflights are well known to provide near-perfect light diffusion and distribution, thereby eliminating solar overheating which can create unhealthy and uncomfortable conditions for cows.

The choice of Filon's FAIRs double skin insulating rooflights further helps to maintain appropriate light levels with a consistently cool temperature inside the shed – with minimal requirement for auxiliary electric lighting.



Farm manager, Chris Wilson, said: "You can feel a distinct drop in the temperature when you walk into the shed and the diffused lighting creates a calm atmosphere that's pleasant to work in and perfect for the cows."

Filon FAIRs can be configured to provide the ideal solution for rooflighting in any profiled roof and the central core can be adapted to provide the level of insulation required. U-values as low as 0.9 W/m²K can be achieved and fire grades of liners and weather sheets can be produced to suit specific site or client requirements.

The FAIRs rooflights on the barn at Knott Oak Dairy Farm are a good example of Filon's rapid tooling capability, having been specially designed and manufactured to suit a new sinusoidal 40mm thick composite panel.

A standard CE24E weather sheet on the rooflights provides a life expectancy of over 30 years, so the cows will be comfortable and the farm's investment protected over the lifespan of the milking plant.

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