



**Hambleside Danelaw**  
Building Products

**Hambleside Danelaw Ltd**  
**Press Release – 18 May 2007**

### **Local MP praises innovative emergency relief shelter**

**Six Cities Design Festival, Inverness, 17 May – 3 June 2007**

Inverness MP Danny Alexander has today praised local manufacturer Hambleside Danelaw for its unique new family shelter unit designed for deployment in natural disaster relief situations.

Developed in Inverness with support from the HIE, Inverness and East Highland, the unit addresses a need to bridge the gap between the provision of tents and the reconstruction of permanent homes in areas of the world devastated by natural disasters. It can easily be erected by local people in less than half a day and it can be built on uneven ground, making it ideal for deployment in mountainous regions.

The easily transported, insulated lightweight shelter system has the following features, which represent the best of Scottish design and innovation on show in the Six Cities Design Festival:

- The unit will not require any tools to erect it
- It will not require any foundations
- All components are interchangeable and do not require any particular skills to achieve its construction
- The floor is designed to be easily adjustable to provide a level base
- The simple panel construction will be insulated to provide warmth or coolness in challenging climatic conditions
- Being of modular construction, it can be extended and easily adapted to meet a family's own requirements
- It can collect and store rainwater
- It can be dismantled and re-erected, leaving no environmental impact on the land where it previously stood

- The life expectancy will be in excess of 10 years
- All components will be lightweight, making for ease of handling and transportation
- It will be supplied as a flat pack kit that meets the NGOs' logistical specifications.

The shelter unit is primarily constructed from glass reinforced polyester (GRP), which is recyclable. This material provides a long life with modern high grade UV protection as part of the manufacturing process. The suitability of GRP has been proved by the 25 years' exposure of an original prototype unit to the Nigerian climate.

The material is also lightweight, meaning that it cannot seriously harm a person, should a component part fall on to them if the disaster area is subject to further natural adversity.

As well as offering a temporary housing solution, the unit can also be used as a shop, medical centre or for other purposes.

Commenting on the public launch of the Hambleside shelter unit at the Six Cities Design Festival in Inverness, John Russell, the unit's architect, said: "Evaluation reports on the relief efforts for the 2004 tsunami and the 2005 Asian earthquake point to a real need to bridge the gap between the tented cities which often form part of the immediate response and the building of new permanent homes for the local population which can take years. In developing the shelter unit, I've been able to marry ideas that address this need with the technological and environmental expertise which Hambleside Danelaw can offer."

After visiting the first shelter unit to be erected in the grounds of Hambleside's factory on the Dalcross industrial estate, Danny Alexander MP said: "After witnessing firsthand Hambleside Danelaw's commitment to sustainable development on several occasions since becoming an MP, the innovative thinking behind the shelter unit's design comes as no surprise to me. I will be carrying the message back to my Parliamentary colleagues that this unit offers a fresh solution to shelter crises following natural disasters."

Robin Jeffery, Hambleside's vice chairman, said: "We are proud to be launching the Hambleside shelter unit at the Six Cities Design Festival in Inverness, still the home of our first roofing products factory in the UK. This is the first step of a major marketing exercise to inform NGOs and foreign governments that a very cost-

effective family accommodation solution is available to them in relief situations until resources and materials are available to provide permanent re-housing.”

Mr Jeffery thanked HIE, Inverness and East Highland for its unstinting support throughout the development programme. He also expressed his appreciation to the British Red Cross for its invaluable feedback on the unit’s design prior to the construction of the prototype at the Dalcross factory.

Hambleside Danelaw announced that it will additionally explore UK domestic marketing opportunities for the unit, such as use as a garden office or temporary kiosk.

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#### **Notes to editors**

##### **1. About the Hambleside shelter unit**

Further information about the unit and its specifications is available on the Hambleside Danelaw website: [www.hambleside-danelaw.co.uk](http://www.hambleside-danelaw.co.uk). Images are also available.

##### **2. About Hambleside Danelaw Ltd**

Hambleside Danelaw Ltd ([www.hambleside-danelaw.co.uk](http://www.hambleside-danelaw.co.uk)) manufactures Glass Reinforced Polyester (GRP) rooflights and other roofing and ventilation products in Inverness and Daventry. As part of the Hambleside Danelaw Group with headquarters in Waterlooville in Hampshire, its turnover is currently in excess of £10 million a year and it employs almost 90 people. The Group was established in 1975 with its first factory at Inverness for manufacturing GRP products becoming operational in 1978. The factory, which has been independently assessed as carbon neutral, has won three Green Apple Gold awards and VIBES commendations for its efforts to reduce its environmental impact and has attained BS 14001:2004 in recognition of its environmental management systems. It recently switched its electricity supply to renewable energy sources, further slashing carbon emissions from the facility. In 1992, the Group began producing in Daventry non-GRP products primarily for roof and cavity wall ventilation. Last year, Hambleside Danelaw won a Business Commitment to the Environment award as well as a Queen’s Award for Enterprise: Innovation for its Insulator GRP thermally efficient rooflight.

##### **3. Six Cities Design Festival, 17 May – 3 June 2007**

The Six Cities Design Festival ([www.six-cities.com](http://www.six-cities.com)) is an initiative aimed at unlocking Scotland’s creativity and innovation as a means of competing in the global marketplace; developing a future for design in Scotland through education and early business investment; and increasing public engagement with design in its broadest definition. Hambleside’s shelter unit will be exhibited outside its factory on the Dalcross industrial estate next to Inverness airport throughout the Festival (contact Ray Khan on 01667 462369).