

## Solidwool case study



*Solidwool Hembury chair*

Devon-based manufacturing business Solidwool has created a composite product - the Hembury Chair - using fleece from upland UK sheep as reinforcement. Made using wool from the Herdwick Sheep of the Lake District and having been showcased at design shows in London and Milan, the Hembury Chair has attracted interest from high end department stores.

Originally, the composite chair was moulded as a single piece using a resin infusion technique, allowed to harden at room temperature and post-cured (exposed to elevated temperatures to maximise its physical properties). CALMARE was called in to assess whether the process used was resulting in optimum levels of strength and flexibility. The Centre was able to suggest improvements to the post processing method, which were verified through a testing programme combined with the testing to demonstrate the enhanced physical properties.