ABF Grain Products Limited

Strategic report, directors' report and financial statements
Registered number 00079590

For the period of 52 weeks ended 26 August 2023

SATURDAY



A03

16/12/2023 COMPANIES HOUSE #178

Contents

Strategic report	3
Directors' report	10
Statement of directors' responsibilities	13
Independent auditor's report to the members of ABF Grain Products Limited	14
Income statement	18
Balance sheet	19
Statement of changes in equity	20
Notes	21

Strategic report

Principal activities

In the course of the period the principal activities were the manufacture and sale of food products.

Business model

ABF Grain Products Limited (the 'Company') manufactures and markets a variety of well-known brands both nationally and internationally. Brands include Kingsmill, Allinson, Jordans Cereals, Dorset Cereals, Ryvita, Tolly Boy, Elephant Atta, Lucky Boat, Rajah, HIGH5 and Reflex. The Company's customers include retailers, as well as wholesale, restaurant and direct to consumer trades.

Business review

The loss for the period of 52 weeks ended 26 August 2023 after taxation is £22,171,000 (2022: loss £60,595,000).

The Company's key financial and other performance indicators during the year were as follows:

	2023	2022	Change	
	£'000	£'000	%	
Turnover	975,734	854,058	+14.2%	
Gross profit	172,383	138,045	+24.9%	
Operating loss	(33,886)	(72,043)	+53.0%	
Average number of employees	4,375	4,566	-4.2%	
Gross margin percentage	17.7%	16.2%	+1.5%	

Revenues were ahead of last year by +14.2% as a result of selling price increases taken during the financial year to offset input cost inflation across energy, raw materials, packaging, and distribution. The operating loss has improved over last financial year driven mostly by a cost reduction in Bakeries.

Allied Bakeries sales were ahead of last year due to price increases covering significantly higher costs for wheat, energy, and distribution. Sales volumes have held steady for most of the year and in the final quarter volumes improved because of increased distribution, which has continued into the new financial year. We are continuing to monitor cost inflation carefully to maximise our competitive position as we enter the new financial year.

Jordans Dorset Ryvita has been impacted by significant cost inflation across energy, ingredients, packaging and distribution. Pricing action has been implemented to cover inflation while attempting to keep products competitive, although volumes have underperformed in the year. The business has invested in a product relaunch, new product development and marketing support to support the business and deliver growth. The manufacturing facility in Bardney, Lincolnshire, which became operational last financial year, is expected to deliver further manufacturing efficiencies in the new financial year.

Westmill Foods are a leading supplier of food products to the Indian, Chinese and Thai foodservice sectors. As the restaurant and takeaway trade emerged from lockdown, demand for our well-known brands was strong but in the second half of the year was impacted by consumer cost of living inflation. As a result, we have seen lower foodservice volumes which have been largely mitigated by strong buying decisions as well as higher sales into retail.

AB Sports Nutrition, trading under the HIGH5 and Reflex brands, have had improving revenues and profits as the business focuses towards on-line and away from bricks and mortar customers. The business continues to innovate, develop on-line and invest in new product development which is driving growth.

Following the closure of the Speedibake Wakefield factory due to a fire in 2020, the Speedibake division consolidated production at the Bradford site. Demand for muffins, garlic bread and mince pies has been strong in the financial year improving turnover and profitability and we invested in the business to improve our manufacturing efficiency and reduce downtime.

Strategic report (continued)

Principal risks and uncertainties

A full description of the principal risks and uncertainties applicable to the Associated British Foods plc group, of which this company is a wholly owned subsidiary, are disclosed on pages 68 to 75 of the 2023 Annual Report, which is available at www.abf.co.uk. The principal risks and uncertainties of this company arise in its trading businesses and are assessed within the operating businesses where they are identified, evaluated and managed by the directors.

Operating in a global market

Our approach to risk management incorporates potential short-term market volatility and evaluates longer-term socioeconomic and political scenarios. The Group's financial control framework and Board-adopted tax and treasury policies require all businesses to comply fully with relevant local laws. Provision is made for known issues based on management's interpretation of country-specific tax law, EU cases and investigations on tax rulings and their likely outcomes. By their nature socio-political events are largely unpredictable. Nonetheless our businesses have detailed contingency plans which include site-level emergency responses and improved security for employees. We engage with governments, local regulators and community organisations to contribute to, and anticipate, important changes in public policy. We conduct rigorous checks when entering or commencing business activities in new markets.

Health and nutrition

Consumer preferences, regulation and market trends are monitored continually. Recipes are regularly reviewed and, where technically feasible, are considered for reformulation to improve their overall nutritional value. All of our grocery products are labelled with nutritional information, including in many cases front of pack nutrition labelling on our branded grocery products.

Fluctuations in commodity and energy prices

We constantly monitor the markets in which we operate and manage certain exposures with exchange traded contracts and hedging instruments. The commercial implications of commodity price movements are continuously assessed and, where appropriate, are reflected in the pricing of our products.

Movements in exchange rates

Our operating divisions which are impacted by exchange rate volatility and currency depreciation constantly review their currency-related exposures. Board-approved policies require businesses to hedge all transactional currency exposures and long-term supply or purchase contracts which give rise to currency exposures, using foreign exchange forward contracts up to twelve months in advance. Cash balances and borrowings are largely maintained in the functional currency of the local operations.

Health and safety

Many of our operations have the potential for loss of life or workplace injuries to employees and contractors, both onsite and off-site, if the hazards and associated risks are not fully controlled. Safety continues to be one of our main priorities. The chief executives of each business, who lead by example, are accountable for the safety performance of their business.

Engaging with our stakeholders - Section 172 Statement

The directors are required to act in a way which they consider, in good faith, is most likely to promote the success of the Company for the benefit of its members as a whole and, in doing so, have regard (amongst other matters) to the matters set out in section 172(1)(a) to (f) of the Companies Act 2006.

The Company is a subsidiary of Associated British Foods plc and, as such, the Company has adopted and directors have due regard to applicable group policies and procedures which impact on the Company's stakeholders, including those referred to on page 82 of the Associated British Foods plc Annual Report and Accounts 2023. Please also see the Associated British Foods plc Section 172 Statement on pages 40 to 45 of that document.

Strategic report (continued)

Stakeholders and engagement

As part of the identification of key stakeholders, the directors have identified the following stakeholder groups with whom engagement is fundamental to the Company's ongoing success:

- Employees
- Suppliers
- Customers
- Communities and Environment
- Governments
- Shareholders
- Subsidiaries and other ABF group entities

Employees

The Company employs 4,375 people. Our people are central to the Company's success and employee engagement is crucial to embedding our Company culture and values, and to helping our people see how their efforts contribute to their Company's strategic objectives. During the reporting period the Company undertook regular engagement surveys, provided leadership updates, provided regular internal communications (such as emails, intranet or magazines), Health & Safety programmes, Town halls and training. The directors review the outcome of these communications/events annually to focus resources on the areas where improvement would derive the most benefit for our people.

Suppliers

Our Supplier Code of Conduct, which applies to all companies in the Associated British Foods group and which can be found on the Associated British Foods website, sets out our values and standards on how we work and engage with our suppliers on ethical, environmental and other relevant matters including on key issues such as payment practices, responsible sourcing, supply chain sustainability and human rights and modern slavery.

Customers

As well as providing safe, nutritious and affordable food, the physical health and safety of our customers and consumers is of paramount importance to the Company. The Company engages with its customers through customer surveys, social media and customer information lines, ensuring their feedback is properly taken into account.

Consumer preferences and market trends are monitored continually. Recipes are regularly reviewed and reformulated to improve the nutritional value of our products. All of our grocery products are labelled with nutritional information. We develop partnerships with other organisations to promote healthy options.

Communities and Environment

Supporting society and respecting the environment are two of the key ways we live our values and make a difference. The Company is committed to seeking sustainable solutions to environmental challenges and adapting our operations to respond to changes in the natural environment.

To achieve these goals the Company is acting on climate change and is working hard to reduce energy use, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, manage waste, improve water management, using environment-friendly packaging and reducing or eliminating use of single-use plastic where possible.

Strategic report (continued)

Governments

The Company can be impacted by changes in laws and public policy. To mitigate the Company's exposure to such changes the directors engage with government authorities either directly, or through being part of the broader Associated British Foods group, to contribute to, and anticipate, important changes in public policy.

Shareholders

The Company reports up to its shareholders, and ultimately to the board of Associated British Foods plc, through reports up to the senior management of the business division of which the Company forms part. The Company takes appropriate steps to ensure that its shareholder is kept up to date on key business activities and decisions.

Subsidiaries and Other ABF group entities

The Company forms part of the group of companies headed by Associated British Foods plc and the Company's accounts are consolidated into the Associated British Foods plc accounts. Group companies can provide financial and other support to the Company and the sharing of best practice and know-how between the businesses within the broader group is actively encouraged.

Principal decisions

Below are some examples of the principal decisions taken during the year, how the directors considered stakeholder views/interests and how such consideration impacted on decision-making.

Example 1: Allied Bakeries - management of volatile input costs.

Over the past twelve months our business has faced unprecedented challenges as a consequence of the war in Ukraine and associated inflationary price rises in the cost of fuel for delivery vehicles, energy for the operation of our bakery ovens and cost increases in our flour supply chain as a result of supply constraints within the global grain sector. In addition, reduced workforce availability across the economy as a whole has led to significant increases in wage rates.

Our business has managed all aspects of these inflation linked challenges in close consultation with our employees, suppliers and customers. Our business has focussed on driving supply chain efficiency, optimising production and distribution capacity. For example, following a consultation with employees and union representatives, this year we closed and consolidated our bakery distribution centre in Orpington as an efficiency measure. We have also worked closely with customers to ensure that we provided essential food staples, such as own label white bread, at the lowest possible cost and have provided surplus food for redistribution to those most in need through charitable organisations, such as FareShare and City Harvest. In addition, we have maintained close dialogue with employee representatives across our business to provide additional support for those facing challenges associated with inflationary pressure at home.

Example 2: Environmental and Social Governance (ESG).

ABF Grain Products Limited has a long track record of engaging in socially and environmentally responsible business practice. For example, Jordans Dorset Ryvita operates schemes to protect biodiversity on UK farms and within its international supply chains, working with a range of environmental NGOs and supply chain partners. Over the course of the past twelve months we have significantly added to our internal resource and focus on ESG across all the operating companies with ABF Grain Products Limited. Specifically we have taken steps to consolidate data reporting in relation to the Supplier Ethical Data Exchange (SEDEX) within a single specialist data centre, to improve visibility and monitoring of conditions within our supply chains. We have completed a programme of work to ensure we have accurate data pertaining to the use of recycled materials within packaging and have validated data relating to water consumption and Scope 1 & 2 Greenhouse Gas emissions across all our operating sites. We remain signatories to The UK Plastics Pact, and The Courtauld 2030 commitment and are undertaking a significant ongoing data management

Strategic report (continued)

exercise to assess and validate our Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas emissions with a view to implementing and monitoring reductions aligned to this specific commitment to implement supply chain emissions reductions in this context. During the course of the year Jordans Dorset Ryvita (JDR) achieved ISO140001 (2015) across all their production sites as well as the ISO500001 standard for energy management.

UK Mandatory Climate Disclosures

Non-financial and sustainability information statement including climate-related financial disclosure

The Company is required to make mandatory climate disclosures under The Companies (Strategic Report) (Climate-related Financial Disclosure) Regulations 2022.

The Company is a subsidiary of Associated British Foods plc ("ABF"). In ABF's diversified group, climate-related targets are set by each business based on its material risks and what is relevant and achievable for it. The Managing Director of each business is responsible for identifying and managing climate risks. Oversight is provided by the Chief Executive and Finance Director of the division to which the Company belongs, as described in the TCFD statement on pages 68 to 75 of the ABF 2023 Annual Report. The ABF Board received two updates on general risks, which includes climate-related risks, in the 2023 financial year.

The Company identifies climate-related risks as part of the bi-annual risk review at business unit operating level. These assessments are then collated and reviewed by the Directors of ABF Grain Products bi-annually.

A description of the targets used by the company to manage climate-related risks is included in the risk matrix on page 8 titled "Resource Efficiency across businesses with lower energy use". The businesses are committed to energy reductions in line with their Climate Change Agreements (CCA) and targets and to reduce carbon as part of UK Grocery's signatory to the updated Courtauld Commitment 2030; to deliver a 50% absolute reduction in GHG emissions associated with food and drink consumed in the UK by 2030 (against a 2015 baseline).

Key performance indicators used are GHG emissions and the company is progressing against these targets as planned as part of an iterative process working towards the 2030 time horizon over the long term.

GHG emissions are reported using the WRI/WBCSD GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard Revised Edition as our framework for calculations and disclosure. We use carbon conversion factors published by the UK Government in June 2022, other internationally recognised sources, and bespoke factors based on laboratory calculations at selected locations. This includes all activities where we have operational control.

Risk management

The Company's risk management process is aligned with the ABF group's risk management framework as set out on pages 68 to 73 of the ABF 2023 Annual Report.

As part of ABF's TCFD implementation in 2022, we participated in a divisional climate-related risk and opportunities assessment. We will update this when required. We worked with ABF and third-party experts to develop an initial list of climate-related physical and transition risks and opportunities that would impact the business in line with TCFD framework. Each business prioritises risk using a likelihood v's impact matrix, and this is reviewed by the senior teams at least annually. Selection criteria included the importance of those risks and opportunities to our business. Following the qualitative analysis and management reviews, we assessed the most significant identified climate-related risks, and we included them in our risk register, in line with our existing risk management process.

The company has considered different climate scenarios as part of a broad theoretical assessment. Based on the risks identified, the expected financial impact on the company of a base scenario with business as usual and no mitigation is low. As a result, mitigated climate scenarios are also considered to have a low risk of a significant financial impact on the company. There is limited risk in the indicative climate scenarios modelled. We note that models give different results in practice.

Further detailed models across our range of operating units best suited to our operations and boundaries are being explored.

As part of the exercise described above we have refined the climate risk register.

Strategic report (continued)

UK Mandatory Climate Disclosures (continued)

Risk Matrix

Risk Matrix	1.				1
Obstactive (1994)		Description and potential (impact) to the business	Response/Miligating Actions	TimeHorizon	Merries& Targets
RISK - Climate change effect on availability of core ingredients RISK - Increased risk of water shortages in key rice growing regions due to changing rainfall patterns	Chronic risk. A gradual change of growing regions climate, including extreme weather events Chronic – climate change	oil/onions. Traditional rice growing methods are particularly water intensive. The warming risks on growing regions in Asia is well documented, this puts the	plan' This is where projects to minimise the risks to its products are grouped. Westmill are founding members of a sustainable rice project which	assessment is very low risk and the process is in the early stages. The project has been running for four years and is long term. Due to its success, it is now rolling out to	project, Reducing the water consumption will reduce emissions and this help slow
		future availability of a core Westmill product at risk		Thailand.	the decline of available growing areas.
	weather events such as heavy and prolonged rainfall or lack of frosts in winter	the grain products businesses, specifically Allied Bakeries. Intensive farming practices over the past decades has impacted on soil quality and health and releases stored carbon.	have partnered with Frontier Ag and Downforce technologies to run a five-year pilot project using low intensity farming methods.	in scope initially. Downforce are using advanced mapping technologies and KPI measures. The wheat crop fluctuations are currently manageable and not an immediate concern in the UK, so this is a long-term view	2024. The next steps using the findings are currently being assessed.
Resource Efficiency across businesses with lower energy use	constantly assessing	benefits which are well documented, such as lower GHG emissions and costs	businesses have signed up to Courtauld 2030. Projects include: turning	stop, therefore long term. The first-time	Courtauld 2030 commitment to reducing GHG emissions by 50% from 2015 to 2030

Strategic report (continued)

Sarch auronomet

By order of the board

SCM Arrowsmith Director

12 December 2023

Registered office
Weston Centre
10 Grosvenor Street
London
W1K 4QY

Directors' report

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements for the 52 week period ended 26 August 2023

Directors and directors' interests

The directors who held office during the period were:

SCM Arrowsmith S Henderson CNJ Law (resigned 5 October 2022)

Dividends

The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend. (2022: £nil).

Going concern

The company has generated a loss in the period and is in a net current liabilities position as at 26 August 2023 and therefore is dependent upon the continued support from its parent in its assessment of going concern.

The Company has received a letter of support from its intermediate parent company, ABF Investments plc which in turn has received a support letter from ABF plc, indicating that it will receive the financial and other support necessary for the Company to trade and meet its liabilities as and when they become due for a period of twelve months from the date of signing of these financial statements.

After making enquiries and considering the support available from the intermediate parent company described above, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operation for 12 months from the date of signing of these financial statements. These considerations included the ABF group's directors' assessment of going concern (set out in the Annual Report and Accounts dated 7 November 2023 and available at www.abf.co.uk), which included the significant levels of cash and undrawn committed long-term facilities available to the group and the ABF group's directors' stress testing of cash flow forecasts through to 1 March 2025, and an assessment of any developments since that date that would adversely affect that conclusion. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

Supplier Payment Policy

The Company's policy is to agree payment terms with suppliers when negotiating the terms of each transaction, to ensure that suppliers are fully aware of these payment terms and to abide by them. Trade creditors of the Company at 26 August 2023 were equivalent to 17 days' purchases (2022: 21 days), based on the average daily amount invoiced by suppliers during the year.

Disabled Persons

The Company gives full and fair consideration to applicants with disabilities; the training, career development and promotion of disabled persons should, as far as possible, be the same as that of other employees.

Disclosure of information to auditor

So far as each person who was a director at the date of approving this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing its report, of which the auditor is unaware. Having made enquiries of fellow directors and the Company's auditor, each director has taken all the steps that he/she is obliged to take as a director in order to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Auditors

Pursuant to Section 487 of the Companies Act 2006, Ernst & Young LLP served as independent external auditors for the period of 52 weeks ended 26 August 2023 and will be deemed to be reappointed for the following period.

Directors indemnities

The directors have benefited from the Associated British Foods plc group Directors and Officers Insurance policy.

Directors report (continued)

Corporate Governance statement

The Company is part of the Associated British Foods plc group of companies. As a company with a premium listing on the London Stock Exchange, Associated British Foods plc is subject to the UK Corporate Governance Code 2018 (the "Governance Code").

As a member of the Associated British Foods plc group of companies, the Company has adopted and the directors have due regard to group-wide governance policies and procedures and best practice. As the Company itself is not a listed company, it does not consider it appropriate to adopt the Governance Code itself, though in practice, it is influenced by group-wide governance arrangements in place in order for Associated British Foods plc to meet its obligations under the Governance Code and other governance rules and requirements. The Company is also mindful of the Wates Corporate Governance Principles for Large Private Companies but does not consider it appropriate to adopt those Principles given its status as a member of the Associated British Foods plc group of companies. Instead, the Company's corporate governance framework is generally based on that of Associated British Foods plc.

Purpose and leadership

The purpose of the Company is to provide safe, affordable and nutritious food products in line with the relevant part of the purpose of the broader Associated British Foods plc group of which the Company forms part. The Company does this through manufacturing and marketing a variety of well-known brands, both nationally and internationally. Brands include Kingsmill, Allinson, Jordans Cereals, Dorset Cereals, Ryvita, Tolly Boy, Elephant Atta, Lucky Boat, Rajah, HIGH 5 and Reflex. Further information can be found on page 15 of the Associated British Foods Annual Report 2023.

Culture and values

In the provision of safe, affordable and nutritious food, we share the Associated British Foods plc group values: respecting everyone's dignity; acting with integrity; progressing through collaboration; and pursuing with rigour. We live and breathe our values through the work we do every day, from investing in the health and safety of our colleagues, promoting diversity and respecting human rights.

Board composition

During the course of the financial year ended 26 August 2023, the Board of the Company comprised the Chief Executive and Finance Director of the UK Grocery Division of the Associated British Foods plc group. The Managing Director of Allied Bakeries, a business division of the Company, resigned in October 2022, however the principles of oversight and governance are still satisfied by virtue of being a subsidiary of the ABF group.

Director responsibilities - policies and procedures

The implementation and day-to-day execution of the Company's business strategy is delegated on a day-to-day basis to the managing directors and senior management of the different business divisions operating under the Company.

In terms of oversight and management of risk, the Company has adopted the relevant group-wide policies. Key policies, such as minimum standards on whistleblowing, competition law and Anti-Bribery and Corruption policies, are set centrally, as are financial controls. Support in respect of these areas is provided by group central functions such as legal, finance and internal audit.

Stakeholder relationships and engagement

Please see the section 172 statement on pages 5-7 for details of engagement with stakeholders.

Engagement with employees

Details of how the directors have engaged with employees and how the directors have had regard to employee interests, and the effect of that regard including on the principal decisions taken by the Company are set out on pages 5-7.

Directors report (continued)

Engagement with suppliers, customers and others in a business relationship with the Company

See pages 5-7 for information on how the directors have had regard to the need to foster the Company's business relationships with suppliers, customers and others, and the effect of that regard, including on the principal decisions taken by the Company during the year.

Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting

In compliance with UK reporting requirements (Streamlined Energy and Carbon Reporting), the directors provide the Company's UK energy and greenhouse ("GHG") emissions data in the table below.

The period for which the information is reported (namely 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023) is different from the period in respect of which the directors' report is prepared as the information for the period 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 has been externally assured.

The principal energy efficiency measures to reduce our carbon emissions this year have included moving to electric cars from petrol or diesel within our company car fleets, and improvements to operational processes. For example, a project to reduce energy consumption at one of our Germains sites resulted in a 7% decrease in electricity use by turning off non-essential equipment, including powering down large compressors when not operating.

In the reporting year, Jordans Ryvita sites used 100% renewable electricity while AB Sports Nutrition exported 50% of the solar energy generated on-site to the national grid.

In addition, Jordan's Ryvita sites operate using management systems accredited to the environmental management standard ISO 140001, an approach which has transformed the culture and attitudes to climate change across the business.

The businesses are committed to energy reductions in line with their Climate Change Agreements (CCA) and targets and to reduce carbon as part of UK Grocery's signatory to the updated Courtauld Commitment 2030; to deliver a 50% absolute reduction in GHG emissions associated with food and drink consumed in the UK by 2030 (against a 2015 baseline).

	2023	2022
Scope 1 emissions	66,050 tCO₂e	69,578 tCO₂e
Scope 2 location-based emissions	19,024 tCO₂e	20,016 tCO ₂ e
Energy use	351,474,114 kWh	367,738,016 kWh
Emissions intensity (scopes 1 and 2 emissions)	£87.19 tonnes of CO ₂ e per £1m of revenue	£104.90 tonnes of CO2e per £1m of revenue

We report our GHG inventory using the WRI/WBCSD GHG Protocol Corporate Accounting and Reporting Standard Revised Edition as our framework for calculations and disclosure. We use carbon conversion factors published by the UK Government in June 2022, other internationally recognised sources, and bespoke factors based on laboratory calculations at selected locations. This includes all activities where we have operational control.

By order of the board

Sarch awayount

SCM Arrowsmith Director

12 December 2023

Registered office
Weston Centre
10 Grosvenor Street
London
WIK 40Y

Statement of directors' responsibilities in respect of the Strategic report, Directors' report and the financial statements

The directors are responsible for preparing the Strategic Report, Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable UK law and regulations. Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards), including Financial Reporting Standard 101 Reduced Disclosure Framework ("FRS 101") and applicable law. Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Company and of the profit or loss for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies in accordance with IAS 8 Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting
 Estimates and Errors and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- present information, including accounting policies, in a manner that provides relevant, reliable, comparable and understandable information;
- provide additional disclosures when compliance with the specific requirements of FRS 101 is insufficient
 to enable users to understand the impact of particular transactions, other events and conditions on the
 company financial position and financial performance;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures
 disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Under applicable law and regulations, the directors are also responsible for preparing a Strategic Report and Directors' Report that comply with that law and those regulations. The directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ABF GRAIN PRODUCTS LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of ABF Grain Products Limited for the 52 week period ended 26August 2023which comprise the Income statement, the Balance sheet, the Statement of changes in equity and the related notes 1 to 22, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards including FRS 101 "Reduced Disclosure Framework" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the Company's affairs as at 26 August 2023 and of its loss for the 52 week period then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
 and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard as applied to other entities of public interest, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Our evaluation of the directors' assessment of the Company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting included obtaining the letter of support received by ABF Investments plc and the onward support letter from ABF plc. We assessed the ability of ABF Investments plc to provide such support over the going concern period. Our assessment in turn focussed on the support letter from ABF plc to ABF Investments plc and the ability of ABF plc to support the group as a whole over the going concern period.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of 12 months from the date of signing of these financial statements.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ABF GRAIN PRODUCTS LIMITED (continued)

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of the other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the strategic report and the directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the Company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 13, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ABF GRAIN PRODUCTS LIMITED (continued)

Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect irregularities, including fraud. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and management.

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Company and determined that the most significant frameworks which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements are those that relate to the reporting framework (FRS 101"Reduced Disclosure Framework" United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and the Companies Act 2006) and the relevant tax laws and regulations in the jurisdictions in which the Company operates. In addition, we concluded that there are certain significant laws and regulations which may have an effect on the determination of the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements being those laws and regulations relating to health and safety, employee matters, food standards and food safety.
- We understood how ABF Grain Products Limited is complying with those frameworks by observing the
 oversight of those charged with governance, the culture of honesty and ethical behaviour and whether a strong
 emphasis is placed on fraud prevention, which may reduce opportunities for fraud to take place, and fraud
 deterrence, which could persuade individuals not to commit fraud because of the likelihood of detection and
 punishment.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by meeting with management to understand their assessment of the susceptibility of the accounts to fraud. We also considered performance targets and their influence on efforts made by management to manage earnings or influence the perceptions of analysts. We considered the procedures and controls that the company has established to address the risks identified, or that otherwise prevent, deter and detect fraud and gain an understanding as to how those procedures and controls are implemented and monitored. Where the risk was considered to be higher, we performed audit procedures to address each identified fraud risk. These procedures included data analytics to identify the population of journal entries and selected a sample of journal entries with higher risk characteristics and agreed them to source documentation.
- Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify noncompliance with such laws and
 regulations. Our procedures involved journal entry testing with a focus on unusual transactions and agree these
 to source documentation. Compliance with other operational laws and regulations was covered through
 inquiries of legal counsel and enquiries of management, reading of board meeting minutes and correspondence
 with relevant authorities with no indications of non-compliance identified.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ABF GRAIN PRODUCTS LIMITED (continued)

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Ernst & Young LLP

Lauren Houghton (Senior statutory auditor) for and on behalf of Ernst & Young LLP, Statutory Auditor Luton

Date 12/12/2023

Income statement

for the 52 week period ended 26 August 2023

	Note	2023 £000	2022 £000
Turnover	3	975,734	854,058
Cost of sales		(803,351)	(716,013)
Gross profit		172,383	138,045
Selling and distribution costs		(143,990)	(138,060)
Administration expenses		(77,991)	(72,028)
Gain on sale of land		15,713	-
Operating loss	4	(33,886)	(72,043)
Interest payable and similar income	8	(3,915)	(467)
Loss on ordinary activities before taxation		(37,801)	(72,510)
Tax credit	9	15,630	11,915
Loss for the financial period		(22,171)	(60,595)

All turnover and operating results in both financial periods are derived from continuing operations.

Statement of comprehensive Income

for the 52 week period ended 26 August 2023

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Loss for the period	(22,171)	. (60,595)
Items that may be reclassified subsequently to income statement:		
Movement in cash flow hedging position	(5,661)	3,064
Deferred tax associated with movement in cash flow hedging position	507	(40)
Other comprehensive income	(5,154)	3,024
Total comprehensive income for the period	(27,325)	(57,571)

Balance sheet

at 26 August 2023 & 27 August 2022

	Note	2023 £000	2023 £000	2022 £000	2022 £000
Non-current assets			A4 T40		01.00
Goodwill	10		21,768		21,768
Intangible assets	10		20,555		17,425 212,208
Tangible assets	11		198,239		10,280
Right-of-use assets	12		9,162		24,346
Investment in subsidiaries	14 19		24,346 6,037		24,340
Deferred tax	19		0,037		-
					
			280,107		286,027
Current assets					
Stocks	16	87,214		73,432	
Debtors	17	159,463		169,085	
Cash at bank and in hand		2,931		2,130	
		249,608		244,647	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(424,234)		(387,046)	
Net current liabilities			(174,626)		(142,399)
Total assets less current liabilities			105,481		143,628
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year.	12		(9,046)		(9,633)
Provisions for liabilities and charges	19		(3,331)	,	(13,764)
Net assets			93,104		120,231
Capital and reserves					
Called up share capital	20		200,000		200,000
Hedging reserve			(331)		5,492
Share based payment reserve			7,423		6,557
Profit and loss account			(113,988)		(91,818)
Shareholders' funds			93,104		120,231
					

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 12 December 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

SCM Arrowsmith

Director

Registered number 00079590

Short awousmit

Statement of changes in equity

for the 52 week period ended 26 August 2023

Share capital	Profit and loss account	Hedging reserve	Share based payment	Total
£000	000£	£000	reserve £000	£000
200,000	(31,223)	3,436	5,824	178,037
-	(60,595)	-	•	(60,595)
_	-	(968)	-	(968)
-	-	3,024		3,024
=	-	•	733	733
200,000	(91,818)	5,492	6,557	120,231
_	(22.171)	_	-	(22,171)
-	-	(669)		(669)
_	-		-	(5,154)
-	-		866	866
200,000	(113,988)	(331)	7,423	93,104
	200,000	capital loss account £000 £000 200,000 (31,223) - (60,595)	capital loss account reserve £000 £000 £000 200,000 (31,223) 3,436 - (60,595) - - - (968) - - 3,024 - - - 200,000 (91,818) 5,492 - - (669) - (5,154)	capital loss account reserve payment reserve £000 based payment reserve £000 £000 £000 £000 £000 200,000 (31,223) 3,436 5,824 - (60,595) - - - (968) - - - - 3,024 - - - 733 200,000 (91,818) 5,492 6,557 - - (669) - - - (5,154) - - - 866

Notes

(forming part of the financial statements)

1. Authorisation of financial statements and statement of compliance with FRS 101

ABF Grain Products Limited is a private company limited by shares and is incorporated and domiciled in England and Wales. The registered office is Weston Centre, 10 Grosvenor Street, London, W1K 4QY.

The Company's financial statements are presented in Sterling, rounded to the nearest thousand (£000) except where otherwise indicated. The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 101 Reduced Disclosure Framework ('FRS 101') and the Companies Act 2006.

The Company has taken advantage of the exemption under \$400 of the Companies Act 2006 not to prepare group accounts as it is a wholly owned subsidiary of Associated British Foods plc and its results are included in the parent company's consolidated financial statements. These consolidated financial statements are available to the public and may be obtained from Associated British Foods plc, Weston Centre, 10 Grosvenor Street, London, W1K 4QY. They are also available for download on the group's website at www.abf.co.uk.

The Company has taken advantage of the disclosure exemptions permitted by FRS 101 in relation to share-based payments, business combinations, financial instruments, fair value measurement, presentation of financial statements, statement of cash flows, accounting policies, changes in accounting estimates (standards not yet effective), related party disclosures and impairment of assets. Where required, the equivalent disclosures are included in the consolidated financial statements of Associated British Foods plc.

2 Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis under FRS 101 'Reduced Disclosure Framework'. FRS 101 sets out a reduced disclosure framework which addresses the financial reporting requirements and disclosure exemptions for the individual financial statements of subsidiaries and ultimate parents that otherwise apply the recognition, measurement and disclosure requirements of IFRS. The Company has taken advantage of the disclosure exemptions allowed under this standard.

Going concern

As set out in note 22, the smallest group in which the results of the Company are consolidated is that headed by Associated British Foods plc, which confirmed in the Annual Report and Accounts dated 7 November 2023 that its directors have a reasonable expectation that the Associated British Foods plc group has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future.

The Company had generated a loss in the period and is in a net current liabilities position as at the 26 August 2023 and therefore is dependent upon the continued support from its parent in its assessment of going concern.

The Company has received a letter of support from its intermediate parent company, ABF Investments plc which in turn has received a support letter from ABF plc, indicating that it will receive the financial and other support necessary for the Company to trade and meet its liabilities as and when they become due for a period of 12 months from the date of signing of these financial statements.

After making enquiries and considering the support available from the intermediate parent company described above, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the Company has adequate resources to continue in operation for 12 months from the date of signing of these financial statements. These considerations included the ABF group's directors' assessment of going concern (set out in the Annual Report and Accounts dated 7 November 2023 and available at www.abf.co.uk), which included the significant levels of cash and undrawn committed long-term facilities available to the group and the ABF group's directors' stress testing of cash flow forecasts through to 1 March 2025, and an assessment of any developments since that date that would adversely affect that conclusion. Accordingly, the financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis.

Notes (continued)

2.2 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported for assets and liabilities as at the balance sheet date and the amounts reported for revenues and expenses during the year. However, the nature of estimation means that actual outcomes could differ from those estimates. The following judgements and estimates have had the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements:

Impairment

Assessment for impairment involves comparing the book value of an asset with its recoverable amount (being the higher of value in use and fair value less costs to sell). Value in use is determined with reference to projected future cash flows discounted at an appropriate rate. Both the cash flows and the discount rate involve a significant degree of estimation uncertainty.

The sensitivity to managements estimates and assumptions mean there is a risk of material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year in respect of impairment. The impact of climate change is considered as part of the impairment reviews. See note 10 for further details of higher risk impairment assessments.

Deferred Tax

The charge for taxation is based on the loss for the period. Deferred taxation is recognised on all temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured on an undiscounted basis at the tax rates that are expected to apply when the related asset is realised or liability settled, based on tax rates and laws enacted or substantively enacted at the balance sheet date. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are presented on a net basis in the balance sheet as they relate to income taxes levied by the same taxation authority. Deferred tax assets will be recovered through compensation from group companies when relieved against group profits in future periods. Changes in judgments and estimates relating to the recognition and recoverability of deferred tax assets have a lower risk of material adjustment in the following accounting period.

2.3 Significant accounting policies

a) Turnover

The turnover shown in the profit and loss account represents the value of sales made to customers after the deduction of discounts and excluding value added tax. Discounts include sales rebates, price discounts, customer incentives, certain promotional activities and similar activities. Turnover is recognised when performance obligations are satisfied, goods are delivered to customers and control of goods is transferred to the buyer.

b) Foreign currency translation

The Company's financial statements are presented in sterling, which is also the Company's functional currency. Transactions in foreign currencies are initially recorded in the entity's functional currency by applying the spot exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the functional currency rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. All differences are taken to the income statement. Non-monetary items that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates as at the dates of the initial transactions. Non-monetary items measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when the fair value was determined.

c) Derivatives

Derivatives are used to manage the Company's economic exposure to financial and commodity risks. The principal instruments used are foreign exchange and commodity contracts, futures, swaps or options (the 'hedging instrument'). The Company does not use derivatives for speculative purposes.

Notes (continued)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

c) Derivatives (continued)

Derivatives are recognised in the balance sheet, at fair value, based on market prices or rates, or calculated using either discounted cash flow or option pricing models. Changes in the value of derivatives are recognised in the income statement unless they qualify for hedge accounting, when recognition of any change in fair value depends on the nature of the item being hedged. The purpose of hedge accounting is to mitigate the impact on the Company's income statement of changes in foreign exchange or interest rates and commodity prices, by matching the impact of the hedged risk and the hedging instrument in the income statement.

The hedging reserve represents gains or losses on derivatives used as hedges of future cash flows before the underlying transaction being hedged is recognised on the balance sheet. Movements in the value of derivatives are tested against movements in value of the underlying transaction being hedged for effectiveness. Any ineffective portion of the derivative is recognised immediately in the income statement. When the future cash flow results in the recognition of a non-financial asset or liability, the gains and losses previously recognised in the hedging reserve are included in the initial measurement of that asset or liability. Otherwise, gains and losses previously recognised in the hedging reserve are recognised in the income statement at the same time as the hedged transaction.

Hedge accounting is discontinued when the hedging instrument expires or is sold, terminated, exercised, or no longer qualifies for hedge accounting. At that time, any cumulative gain or loss on the hedging instrument recognised in the hedging reserve is retained in the hedging reserve until the forecast transaction occurs. Gains or losses on hedging instruments relating to an underlying exposure that no longer exists are taken to the income statement.

The Company economically hedges foreign currency exposure on recognised monetary assets and liabilities but does not normally seek hedge accounting. Any derivatives that the group holds to hedge this exposure are classified as 'held for trading' within derivative assets and liabilities. Changes in the fair value of such derivatives and the foreign exchange gains and losses arising on the related monetary items are recognised within operating profit.

d) Intangible fixed assets - brands

Capitalised brands arose on the acquisition of the trade of BE International in February 2007, Elephant Atta in July 2013 and Dorset Cereals in October 2014. These brands are being amortised over their useful economic lives not exceeding 20 years.

e) Intangible fixed assets - licences

Licences for the use of bread baskets are supplied by Bakers BASCO Ltd, and are issued for continued use of baskets until technology renders the current design obsolete. Licences are also held for various pieces of software used within the business. In the opinion of the directors the useful economic life of these assets is 5 years and the cost of these licences is therefore amortised over this period on a straight-line basis.

f) Intangible fixed assets - software

Consistent with IAS 38, software costs are classified as an intangible fixed asset, unless they are an integral part of the related hardware in which case they are classified as a tangible fixed asset. Software is being amortised over its useful economic life not exceeding 15 years. In line with the application of the IFRIC clarification on configuration or customisation costs in a cloud computing arrangement, the board has elected to expense cloud computing costs which do not align with the IFRIC clarification from the start of the financial year.

Amortisation charges relating to brand, licences and software are included within administrative expenses.

Notes (continued)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

g) Goodwill

Goodwill arising on a business combination is the excess of the remeasured carrying amount of any existing equity interest plus the fair value of consideration payable for the additional stake over the fair value of the share of net identifiable assets and liabilities acquired (including separately identified intangible assets), net of non-controlling interests. Total consideration does not include acquisition costs, which are expensed as incurred. Certain commercial assets associated with the acquisition of a business are not capable of being recognised in the acquisition balance sheet. In such circumstances, goodwill is recognised, which may include, but is not necessarily limited to, workforce assets and the benefits of expected future synergies. Goodwill is not amortised but is subject to an annual impairment review.

The UK Companies Act requires goodwill to be reduced by provisions for depreciation on a systematic basis over a period chosen by the Directors, its useful economic life. However, under IFRS 3 Business Combinations goodwill is not amortised. Consequently, the Company does not amortise goodwill but reviews it for impairment on an annual basis or whenever there are indicators of impairment. The Company is therefore invoking a 'true and fair view override' to overcome the prohibition on the non-amortisation of goodwill in the Companies Act. The Company is not able to reliably estimate the impact on the financial statements of the true and fair override on the basis that the useful life of goodwill cannot be predicted with a satisfactory level of reliability, nor can the pattern in which goodwill diminishes be known.

h) Research and development

Expenditure on research reflected in the income statement in the year in which the expenditure is incurred. Development expenditure is capitalised if the product or process is technically and commercially feasible but is otherwise expensed as incurred.

i) Investments

Investments in subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures are held at historical cost less any applicable provision for impairment.

j) Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are carried at their original cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation, calculated on cost, is provided on a straight-line basis over the expected life of the asset. No depreciation is provided on freehold land. Leaseholds are written off over the period of the lease. The expected life of other assets is generally deemed to be not longer than:

-	50 years
-	3-20 years
-	5-10 years
-	3-7 years
	- -

Calculation of recoverable amount

The recoverable amount of fixed assets is the greater of their net realisable value and value in use. In assessing value in use, the expected future cash flows are discounted to their present value using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the rate of return expected on an equally risky investment. For an asset that does not generate largely independent income streams, the recoverable amount is determined for the income-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected to arise from the continued use of the asset. Any gain or loss arising on the derecognition of the asset is included in the income statement in the period of derecognition.

Notes (continued)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

k) Impairment of non-financial assets

The Company assesses at each reporting date whether there is an indication that an asset may be impaired. If any such indication exists, or when annual impairment testing for an asset is required, the Company makes an estimate of the asset's recoverable amount in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss. An asset's recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's or cash-generating unit's fair value less costs to sell and its value in use and is determined for an individual asset, unless the asset does not generate cash inflows that are largely independent of those from other assets or groups of assets. Where the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to its recoverable amount. Impairment losses on continuing operations are recognised in the income statement in those expense categories consistent with the function of the impaired asset.

For assets where an impairment loss subsequently reverses, the carrying amount of the asset or cash generating unit is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, not to exceed the carrying amount that would have been recognised for the asset or cash generating unit in prior years. A reversal of impairment loss is recognised immediately in the income statement, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount when it is treated as a revaluation increase.

l) Provisions for liabilities

A provision is recognised when the Company has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation; and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. If the effect is material, expected future cash flows are discounted using a current pre-tax rate that reflects, where appropriate, the risks specific to the liability. Where the Company expects some or all of a provision to be reimbursed, the reimbursement is recognised as a separate asset but only when recovery is virtually certain. The expense relating to any provision is presented in the income statement net of any reimbursement. Where discounting is used, the increase in the provision due to unwinding the discount is recognised as a finance cost.

m) Leases

Right-of-use assets

Right of use assets are recognised at the commencement date of the lease, which is the date the underlying asset is available for use. Right-of-use assets are measured at cost, less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, and adjusted for subsequent remeasurement of lease liabilities. The cost of right-of-use assets includes the amount of lease liabilities recognised, initial direct costs incurred, and lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the estimated useful life and the lease term and are subject to impairment. Right-of-use assets are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses, adjusted for any remeasurement of the lease liability.

Lease liabilities

Lease liabilities are recognised at the commencement date of the lease and are measured at the present value of lease payments to be made over the lease term, discounted using the incremental borrowing rate at the lease commencement date if the interest rate implicit in the lease is not readily determinable.

Lease payments include fixed payments, including in-substance fixed payments, and variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, less any lease incentives receivable. Variable lease payments that do not depend on an index or a rate are recognised as an expense in the period in which the event or condition that triggers the payment occurs.

After the commencement date of the lease, the lease liability is subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The carrying amount of lease liabilities is increased to reflect the accretion of interest and reduced for the lease payments made.

In addition, the carrying amount of lease liabilities is remeasured when there is a change in future lease payments due to a change in the lease term, a change in the in-substance fixed lease payments or a change in the assessment to purchase the underlying asset.

Notes (continued)

2 Accounting policies (continued)

n) Inventories

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due provision against obsolete and slow-moving items. In the case of work in progress and finished goods manufactured by the Company, the term 'cost' includes ingredients, production wages and an appropriate proportion of attributable production overheads.

o) Taxation

Corporation tax payable is provided on taxable profits at the prevailing rate. Current tax assets and liabilities are measured at the amount expected to be recovered from or paid to the taxation authorities, based on tax rates and laws that are enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

Deferred tax is recognised in respect of all timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date where transactions or events that result in an obligation to pay more tax in the future or a right to pay less tax in the future have occurred at the balance sheet date. Timing differences are differences between the Company's taxable profits and its results as stated in the financial statements that arise from the inclusion of gains and losses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in the financial statements.

Deferred tax is measured at the average tax rates that are expected to apply in the periods in which timing differences are expected to reverse, based on tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date. Deferred tax is measured on a non-discounted basis.

p) Pension costs

The Company participates in a groupwide pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Company. The Company is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities of the scheme on a consistent basis and therefore accounts for the scheme as if it were a defined contribution scheme. As a result, the amount charged to the profit and loss account represents the contributions payable to the scheme in respect of the accounting period.

Contributions to defined contribution pension schemes are charged to the profit and loss account in the period in which they arise.

q) Share based payment reserve

The Associated British Foods group operates a Share Incentive Plan which allows employees to receive allocations of shares subject to the attainment of certain financial performance criteria and typically after a three-year performance period. The fair value of the shares to be awarded is recognised as an employee expense by the Company, with a corresponding increase in the share based payment reserve. The fair value is measured at grant date and charged to the income statement over the period during which the employee becomes unconditionally entitled to the shares. The fair value of the shares allocated is measured taking into account the terms and conditions of the Share Incentive Plan under which the shares were allocated. The amount recognised as an expense is adjusted to reflect the actual number of shares that yest.

3 Turnover

The turnover and profit before taxation are attributable to the one principal activity of the Company. A geographical analysis of turnover by destination is given below:

analysis of turnover by desimation is given below.	52 weeks ended 26 August 2023 £000	52 weeks ended 27 August 2022 £000
United Kingdom	884.145 75.137	753,766 76,507
Europe & Africa Asia Pacific	75,127 7,433	13,462
The Americas	9,029	10,323
	975,734	854,058
		-
4 Operating loss	52 weeks ended	52 weeks ended
	26 August 2023	27 August 2022
	€000	£000
Loss on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging:	590,288	£1.4.3£3
Amount of inventory recognised as an expense Amortisation of intangible assets	1,889	514,352 5,904
(Gain)/loss on sale of property	(15,713)	3,704
(Gains)/losses on foreign exchange transactions	1,484	(2,345)
Impairment of goodwill Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	25,542	28,347
Depreciation of right-of-use assets	1,720	4,312

	52 weeks ended	52 weeks ended
	26 August 2023 £000	27 August 2022 £000
Auditor's remuneration:		
Audit of these financial statements	660	585
	660	585
	<u> </u>	
5 Remuneration of directors		50locdd
	52 weeks ended 26 August 2023	52 weeks ended 27 August 2022
	£000	£000
Directors' emoluments	1,007	1,589
Long-term incentive plans	103	181
•	1,110	1,770
	-	

The aggregate emoluments of the highest paid director were £717,299 (2022: £923,826). During the year, this director received shares under a long term incentive plan.

Retirement benefits under a defined benefit pension arrangement accrued to no directors in the current year.

Notes (continued)

6 Staff numbers and costs

The average number of persons employed by the Company (including directors) during the period was:

Number of employees

	52 weeks ended 26 August 2023	52 weeks ended 27 August 2022
Average number of employees per week	4,375	4,566
The aggregate payroll costs of these persons were:		
	52 weeks ended	52 weeks ended
	26 August 2023	27 August 2022
	£000	£000
Wages and salaries	171,575	169,067
Social security costs	18,711	18,794
Other pension costs	15,421	15,789
Share based payments	866	733
	206,573	204,383

7 Pensions

The Company is a member of the Associated British Foods Pension Scheme which provides benefits based on final pensionable pay. Because the Company is unable to identify its share of the scheme's assets and liabilities on a consistent basis, the scheme is accounted for by the Company as if it were a defined contribution scheme. On 30 September 2002 the scheme was closed to new members and a defined contribution arrangement was put in place for other employees. For the defined contribution scheme, the pension costs are the contributions payable.

The most recent triennial funding valuation of the Scheme was carried out as at 5 April 2023, using the current unit method, and revealed funding surplus of £1,013m. The market value of the Scheme assets was £3,648m, representing 138% of members' accrued benefits after allowing for expected future salary increases. Full IAS 19 disclosures can be found on pages 139 and 154 of the financial statements of Associated British Foods plc, which may be obtained from Weston Centre, 10 Grosvenor Street, London, W1K 4QY. These financial statements are also available for download from the group's website at www.abf.co.uk.

8 Interest payable and similar income	52 weeks ended 26 August 2023 £000	52 weeks ended 27 August 2022 £000
Interest payable on intercompany balances	(3,915)	(467)
9 Taxation	52 weeks ended 26 August 2023 £000	52 weeks ended 27 August 2022 £000
UK corporation tax Current tax on income for the period Adjustment in respect of previous periods	(14,194) 13,817	(15,781) (110)
Total current tax	(377)	(15,891)
Deferred tax (see Note 19) Origination and reversal of timing differences Effect of change in tax rate Adjustment in respect of previous periods	2,753 453 (18,459)	3,140 - 836
Total deferred tax	(15,253)	3,976
Tax credit on loss on ordinary activities	(15,630)	(11,915)

9 Taxation (continued)

Current tax reconciliation

	52 weeks ended 26 August 2023 £000	52 weeks ended 27 August 2022 £000
Loss on ordinary activities before tax	(37,801)	(72,510)
Current tax at effective rate of 21.5% (2022: 19%)	(8,114)	(13,777)
Effect of rate change	453	753
(Income)/Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	(3,326)	365
Overseas withholding tax not recoverable	-	18
Adjustments to tax charge in respect of previous years	(4,642)	726
Total tax credit	(15,630)	(11,915)
UK corporation tax debtor	16,708	24,166
Movement in deferred tax provision		
At beginning of period	9,560	5,532
Charge/(credit) to income statement for the period	(15,253)	3,976
Tax charge/(credit) to reserves Acquisitions/(disposal)	(344)	52
At end of period	(6,037)	9,560

The UK corporation tax rate of 19% increased to 25% from 1 April 2023. The legislation to effect these changes was enacted before the balance sheet date and UK deferred tax has been calculated accordingly. Deferred tax assets are presented net of deferred tax liabilities due to them relating to the same taxable entity and same tax jurisdiction. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are expected to reverse on a similar time frame.

10 Intangible fixed assets

	Brands £000	Software £000	Licences £000	Goodwill £000	Total £000
Cost At beginning of period Additions Disposals	71,436	32,268 5,035 (16)	1,848	66,761	172,313 5,035 (16)
At end of period	71,436	37,287	1,848	66,761	177,332
Amortisation or impairment At beginning of period Charge for period	69,261 912	17,018 977	1,848 -	44,993 -	133,120 1,889
At end of period	70,173	17,995	1,848	44,993	135,009
Net book value					
At 26 August 2023	1,263	19,292		21,768	42,323
At 27 August 2022	2,175	15,250	-	21,768	39,193

The capitalised brands were acquired as part of the acquisition of BE International in 2007, Elephant Atta in July 2013, Dorset Cereals in October 2014. The main brands, Elephant, Dorset Cereals, Rajah, Green Dragon and Lotus, were valued as part of their respective acquisitions and are being amortised over a period between 8 and 20 years.

The Goodwill of £21.8m relates to Dorset Cereals.

The carrying value of goodwill is assessed by reference to its value in use to perpetuity reflecting the projected cash flows of each of the CGUs or group of CGUs. The key assumptions in the most recent forecast on which the cash flow projections are based relate to discount rates, growth rates and expected changes in volumes, selling prices and direct costs. Each CGU carries out impairment testing, where each CGU had positive headroom across a range of discount rates from 9% - 12.2%.

In light of the supply side inflationary pressures combined with the cost of living pressures faced by our business management performed a detailed impairment review of Jordans Dorset Ryvita, and concluded no impairment was required. Key drivers of the forecast improvement in performance include annualisation of price increases, completion of a number of margin improvement initiatives, implementation of planned strategic initiatives and the completion of ongoing new product development. Headroom was £59m on a CGU carrying value of £137m (2022 – headroom of £34m on a CGU carrying value at £139m). The discount rate used was 12.2% and would have to increase to more than 15.7% before value in use fell below the CGU carrying value. The long term growth rate applied into perpetuity was 2.8%, based on forecast industry growth of 2.5% for breakfast cereals and 3.3% for biscuits.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £000	Plant and machinery £000	Fixtures and fittings £000	Assets under construction £000	Total £000
Cost			•		
At beginning of period	132,197	537,887	45,206	14,415	729,705
Additions	-	4,159	423	9,157	13,739
Disposals	(4,636)	(10,925)	(824)	-	(16,385)
Transfers	529	3,864	123	(4,516)	-
At end of period	128,090	534,985	44,928	19,056	727,059
Depreciation and impairment					
At beginning of period	<i>55,</i> 297	428,151	34,049	-	517,497
Depreciation for the period	1,993	21,555	1,994	-	25,542
On disposals	(3,098)	(10,302)	(819)	-	(14,219)
At end of period	54,192	439,404	35,224		528,820
Net book value					
At 26 August 2023	73,898	95,581	9,704	19,056	198,239
AA 0.7 A	76,900	109,736	11,157	14,415	212,208
At 27 August 2022	70,300	107,730	11,127	17,710	

Freehold land of £7,571,000 (2022: £9,105,000) is not depreciated.

12 Leases

Right-of-use assets			
	Land and buildings	Plant and machinery	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Cost At beginning of period	17,614	5,496	23,110
Additions	302	562	864
Disposals	(57)	(547)	(604)
Other movements	(254)	(8)	(262)
At end of period	17,605	5,503	23,108
Depreciation and impairment			
At beginning of period	8,283	4,547	12,830
Depreciation for the period	1,269	451	1,720
Disposals	(57)	(547)	(604)
At end of period	9,495	4,451	13,946
Net book value			
At 26 August 2023	.8,110	1,052	9,162
At 27 August 2022	9,331	949	10,280
Lease liabilities			
	T 1 4	Plant and	
	Land and buildings	machinery	Total
	000£	£000	£000
Cost			
At 27 August 2022	11,213	1,021	12,234
Additions	632	2	632 49
Interest expense	47 (1.522)	(458)	(1,980)
Repayments Other movements	(1,522) (412)	(41)	(453)
Out instances			
At 26 August 2023	9,958	524	10,482
			
Current	τ		1,436
Non-current			9,046
			10,482

Notes (continued)

12 Leases (continued)

The Company had the following expense relating to short-term and low value leases:

	10tal 0000±
Land and buildings Plant and machinery	2 105
	107

13 Fixed asset investments

The companies in which the Company's interest at the period is more than 20% are as follows:

Participating interests	Country of incorporation	Principal activities	Percentage held of ordinary class shares
Bakers BASCO Limited Note 1	United Kingdom	Administrator of pool of baskets used in the bread industry	20%

Note I Registered office address is Pacioli House Duncan Close, Moulton Park Industrial Estate, Northampton, England, NN3 6WL

14 Investment in subsidiaries

	Subsidiary undertakings £000
Cost At 27 August 2022 Additions	68,479
At 26 August 2023	68,479
Transfer to Goodwill on Hive-up	
At 27 August 2022	(44,133)
At 26 August 2023	(44,133)
Provision for impairment At 27 August 2022	
At 26 August 2023	•
Net book value	
At 27 August 2022	24,346
At 26 August 2023	24,346

14 Investment in subsidiaries (continued)

The Company's subsidiaries are as follows:

Subsidiary	Country of incorporation	Investment £	Percentage ordinary shares held
H 5 Limited Note 2	United Kingdom	3,832,000	100%
Reflex Nutrition Limited Note 2	United Kingdom	4,393,000	100%
Dorset Cereals Limited Note 2	United Kingdom	16,121,000	100%
Acetum (UK) Limited (formerly known as Allied Technical Centre Limited Note 2	United Kingdom	100	100%
Pro-Active Nutrition Limited Nate 2	United Kingdom	1	100%
Allied Mills Limited Note 2	United Kingdom	100	100%

Note 2 Registered office address is Weston Centre, 10 Grosvenor Street, London, United Kingdom, W1K 4QY

15 Capital commitments

The Company has capital expenditure commitments of £2,305,000 (2022: £10,013,000) for which no provision has been made in these financial statements.

16 Stocks

	26 August	27 August
	2023	2022
	000£	£000
Raw materials and consumables	44,269	38,113
Work in progress	104	106
Finished goods and goods for resale	42,841	35,213
	87,214	73,432
17 Debtors	26 August	27 August
17.Debtots	2023	2022
	0003	£000
Trade debtors	118,121	117,626
Amounts owed by group undertakings	7,102	Ï0,561
Other debtors	3,977	6,624
Prepayments and accrued income	6,137	5,276
Receivable for group relief	16,078	24,166
Other taxes and VAT	8,048	4,832
	159,463	169,085

Trade debtors are non-interest bearing and are normally settled on average on 46 days terms (2022: 53 days). Amounts owed by group undertakings of £7,102k (2022: £10,561k) relate to trade with group subsidiaries and are non-interest bearing and normally settled within 30 days. Based on impairment testing performed on investments, we did not identify any impairment indicators. As a result, we concluded that no event is triggering the recoverability of loans granted to subsidiaries.

18 Creditors Amounts falling due within one year	26 August 2023 £000	27 August 2022 £000
Lease liabilities Trade creditors Amounts owed to parent undertakings Amounts owed to group undertakings Other taxes and social security Other creditors Accruals and deferred income	1,436 45,884 85,646 235,409 10,744 890 44,225	2,601 50,729 70,150 208,733 8,775 812 45,246
	424,234	387,046

Trade creditors are non-interest bearing and are normally settled on average on 18 days terms (2022: 21 days). Amounts owed to parent undertakings of £85,6460k (2022: £70,150k) relate to loans owed to Associated British Foods plc and bear interest at a rate equal to 6m SONIA + credit adjustment spread of 27.66bps + 25bps. From 25th August 2023 interest will accrue at a rate equal to 6m SONIA + credit adjustment spread of 27.66bps + 54bps. Amounts owed to group undertakings of £180,935k (2022: £180,935k) are non-interest-bearing and represent balances owed to other UK group companies following the hive-up of Food Investments, Jordans Ryvita, Dorset Cereals, Reflex and HIGH5. Other amounts owed to group undertakings of £54,474k (2022: £27,798k) relate to trade with group subsidiaries and are non-interest bearing and normally settled within 30 days.

19 Provisions for liabilities and charges

	Deferred	Deferred	Restructuring	Other	Total
	Tax £000	consideration £000	£000	£000	£000
At beginning of period Amounts charged/(credited) to the income statement Utilised in the period Movement in deferred tax on hedging reserve Deferred tax asset moved to non-current assets	9,560 (15,253) - (344) 6,037	228 - - - -	3,564 2,619 (3,654)	412 162 - -	13,764 (12,472) (3,654)) (344) 6,037
At end of period	-	228	2,529	574	3,331

Deferred tax arises primarily on the timing differences between capital allowances and book depreciation and on provisions for expenditure that will be deductible in a later period for tax purposes. The entity has a history of recent losses however there are sufficient taxable profits within the group within FY24 to relieve the carried forward losses and it is group policy and intention to compensate ABFGP for these losses. Deferred consideration comprises estimates of amounts due to the previous owners of H5 Limited and Reflex Nutrition Limited which are linked to performance and other conditions. Restructuring provisions relate primarily to Allied Bakeries and expect to be settled within 2 years. Other provisions relate to dilapidations of the Enfield and Oldham sites.

Notes (continued)

20 Called up share capital

20 Canen up snare capital	Number	26 August 2023 £000	Number	27 August 2022 £000
Authorised, allotted, called up and fully paid Ordinary shares of £1 each	200,000,000	200,000	200,000,000	200,000
		200,000		200,000

21 Employee share schemes

The Associated British Foods Executive Share Incentive Plan 2003 ('the Share Incentive Plan') was approved and adopted by Associated British Foods plc at its annual general meeting held on 5 December 2003. It takes the form of conditional allocations of shares which will be released if, and to the extent that, certain performance targets are satisfied over a three-year performance period.

Further information regarding the operation of the share incentive plan can be found in the financial statements of Associated British Foods plc which may be obtained from Weston Centre, 10 Grosvenor Street, London, WIK 4QY. These financial statements are also available for download from the group's website at www.abf.co.uk

Notes (continued)

22 Ultimate parent undertaking and parent undertaking of larger group of which the Company is a member

The ultimate parent company is Wittington Investments Limited, which is incorporated in the United Kingdom and registered in England and Wales.

The largest group of undertakings for which group accounts are drawn up (within which the results of the company are consolidated) and of which the company is a member is headed by Wittington Investments Limited. The smallest such group of undertakings is headed by Associated British Foods plc, which is incorporated in the United Kingdom and registered in England and Wales.

The consolidated accounts of these groups are available to the public and may be obtained from Weston Centre, 10 Grosvenor Street, London, W1K 4QY, which is the registered office of each of Wittington Investments Limited and Associated British Foods plc. The consolidated accounts of Associated British Foods plc are also available for download on the group's website at www.abf.co.uk.