Company Registration No. 961989

Glencore Grain UK Limited

Report and Financial Statements

31 December 2005



Report and financial statements 2005

Contents	Page
Officers and professional advisers	1
Directors' report	2
Statement of directors' responsibilities	3
Independent auditors' report	4
Consolidated profit and loss account	6
Balance Sheets	7
Consolidated cash flow statement	8
Notes to the accounts	9

Report and financial statements 2005

Officers and professional advisers

Directors

D N Dreyfuss

(resigned 20 January 2006)

K L Davies

C J Mahoney

E C B Mostert

(appointed 20 January 2006)

Secretary

S P Pujara

Registered Office

Glencore Grain UK Limited Warren House Bell Lane Thame Oxon OX9 3AL

Auditors

Deloitte & Touche LLP Chartered Accountants London

Directors' report

The directors present their annual report and the audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2005.

Principal activities and business review

The principal activities of the company are those of grain merchants and dealers. These activities continued throughout the year and are expected to remain at a similar level in the future. The company's subsidiaries have not traded during the year.

Results and dividend

The profit for the year after taxation amounted to £187,000 (2004 profit – £806,000). During the year the directors declared an interim dividend of £nil (2004 - £nil), they do not recommend a final dividend (2004 - £nil).

Directors

The directors of the company who served throughout the year, except as noted, were:

D N Dreyfuss (resigned 20 January 2006)

K L Davies C J Mahoney

E C B Mostert (appointed 20 January 2006)

None of the directors had any disclosable interests in the shares of the company, its subsidiaries or its associated company during the year.

Financial instruments

Derivative instruments utilised by the group are forward and futures commodity contracts for wheat and oil seed rape as well as forward currency contracts. Such instruments are used for hedging purposes to alter the risk profile of an existing underlying exposure of the group in line with the group's risk management policies.

Auditors

The Company has elected to dispense with the obligation to appoint auditors annually and accordingly, Deloitte & Touche LLP shall be deemed to be re-appointed as auditors for a further term under the provisions of section 386(2) of the Companies Act 1985.

Approved by the Board of Directors and signed on behalf of the Board

S P Pujara Secretary

28 06 2006

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Statement of directors' responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the financial statements. The directors have chosen to prepare the accounts for the company and the group in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of affairs of the company and the group and of the profit or loss of the company and the group for that period and comply with UK GAAP and the Companies Act 1985. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the group will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and the group and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 1985. They are also responsible for the system of internal control, for safeguarding the assets of the company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF GLENCORE GRAIN UK LIMITED

We have audited the group and individual company financial statements (the "financial statements") of Glencore Grain UK Limited for the year ended 31 December 2005 which comprise the consolidated profit and loss account, the statement of total recognised gains and losses, the consolidated and company balance sheets, the consolidated cash flow statement and the related notes 1 to 23. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 235 of the Companies Act 1985. 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 auditors' 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.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The directors' responsibilities for preparing the annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out in the statement of directors' responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant United Kingdom legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with the relevant financial reporting framework, and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you if, in our opinion, the directors' report is not consistent with the financial statements, if the company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

We read the directors' report and the other information contained in the annual report for the above year as described in the contents section and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the financial statements.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the circumstances of the company and the group, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, of the state of the group and the company's affairs as at 31 December 2005 and of the group's profit for the year then ended; and
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Deloite & Toucho LLP

Deloitte & Touche LLP

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors London

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Consolidated profit and loss account Year ended 31 December 2005

	Notes	2005 £'000	2004 (restated) £'000
Turnover	4	157,981	135,614
Cost of sales		(154,814)	(131,748)
Gross profit		3,167	3,866
Administrative expenses		(3,086)	(2,842)
Operating profit		81	1,024
Other interest receivable and similar income	5	115	91
Interest payable and similar charges	6	(109)	(82)
Profit on sale of tangible fixed assets		180	9
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		267	1,042
Tax charge on profit on ordinary activities	9	(80)	(236)
Profit on ordinary activities after taxation and for the			
financial year		187	806

All turnover and operating profit derive from continuing operations.

Statement of total recognised gains and losses Year ended 31 December 2005

2005 £'000	(restated) £'000
187	806
(238)	(578)
71	173
20	401
	£'000 187 (238) 71

Consolidated and company balance sheets At 31 December 2005

	Group and	Company
Notes Fixed assets		2004 (restated) £'000
Tangible assets	791	695
Investments 12		
	791	695
Current assets		
Stocks 13		9,513
Debtors 14	13,390	10,017
Creditors: amounts falling due	18,632	19,530
within one year 15	(15,160)	(16,209)
Net current assets	3,472	3,321
Net assets excluding pension liability Pension liability 20	4,263 (889)	4,016 (662)
20	(689)	(002)
Net assets	3,374	3,354
Capital and reserves		
Called up share capital 16 Profit and loss account 17		303
Tont and loss account	3,071	3,051
Total shareholders' funds	3,374	3,354
Shareholders' funds are attributable to:		
Equity shareholder's funds	3,074	3,054
Non-equity shareholder's funds	300	300
	3,374	3,354

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 28 Tun-2006 Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors

K L Davies Director

Consolidated cash flow statement Year ended 31 December 2005

	Notes	2005 £'000	2004 £'000
Net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating activities	18(i)	(2,580)	2,115
Returns on investments and servicing of finance Interest received Interest paid		115 (89)	88 (84)
Net cash inflow from returns on investments and servicing of finance		26	4
Taxation		469	(33)
Capital expenditure and financial investment Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets Receipts from sales of tangible fixed assets		(308) 278	(117) 10
Net cash outflow from capital expenditure and financial investment		(30)	(107)
Cash (outflow)/inflow before use of liquid resources and financing		(2,115)	1,979
(Decrease)/increase in cash in the year	18(ii)	(2,115)	1,979

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2005

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and United Kingdom accounting standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Except as noted below they have all been applied consistently throughout the current and preceding years. The particular accounting policies adopted are described below.

Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention as modified by the application of FRS 17.

Basis of consolidation

The group financial statements consolidate the financial statements of the company and its subsidiaries for the year ended 31 December 2005. No differences exist between the group and company balance sheets other than for investments in 100% owned subsidiaries of £3.

Changes in accounting policies

The Group has adopted Financial Reporting Standard 17: Retirement Benefits ("FRS 17") in full for the period ended 31 December 2005. For the period ended 31 December 2004 the Group accounted for retirement benefits under SSAP 24 "Pension costs" and gave disclosures in accordance with the FRS 17 transitional arrangements. The accounting policy for retirement benefits is described below and the effect of the restatement shown in note 2.

Turnover

Turnover represents amounts invoiced, excluding value added tax, in respect of goods supplied as grain merchants during the year.

Depreciation

Depreciation on tangible fixed assets is provided on the straight-line basis to write off the cost of the assets over their expected useful lives which are as follows:

Freehold buildings 25 years
Plant and machinery 10 years
Computers, equipment, fixtures and fittings 3-5 years
Motor vehicles 4 years

Freehold land is not depreciated.

Investments

Investments held as fixed assets are stated at cost.

Stocks

Stocks, consisting of grain and feed stuffs, are valued at the lower of cost, a weighted average price, and net realisable value. Cost includes, where incurred, freight, import duties and cost of discharge where appropriate.

Foreign currency translation

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling on the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Gains and losses arising from such translation are dealt with in the profit and loss account.

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2005

1. Accounting policies (continued)

Taxation

Current tax, including UK corporation tax and foreign tax, is provided at amounts expected to be paid (or recovered) using the tax rates and laws that have been 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 group'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 not discounted.

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

Pension costs

The Group operates a defined benefit pension scheme. In accordance with FRS 17, the full service cost of the pension provision relating to the period, together with the cost of any benefits relating to past service is charged to the profit and loss account. A charge equal to the expected increase in the present value of the scheme liabilities because the benefits are closer to settlement and a credit equivalent to the Group's long-term expected return on assets based on the market value of the scheme assets at the start of the period, are included in the profit and loss account with 'other interest receivable and similar income'.

The difference between the market value of the assets of the scheme and the present value of accrued pension liabilities is shown as a liability on the balance sheet, net of deferred tax. Any difference between the expected return on assets and that actually achieved is recognised in the statement of total recognised gains and losses along with differences which arise from experience or assumption changes.

Further information on pension arrangements is set out in note 20.

Rentals under operating leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged to profit and loss account in equal annual amounts over the lease term.

Financial instruments

Derivative instruments utilised by the group are forward and futures commodity contracts for wheat and oil seed rape as well as forward currency contracts. Such instruments are used for hedging purposes to alter the risk profile of an existing underlying exposure of the group in line with the group's risk management policies.

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling on the date of the transaction, unless matching forward foreign exchange contracts have been entered into, in which case the rate specified in the relevant contract is used. At the balance sheet date unhedged monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at that date.

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2005

2. Prior year restatement

The full implementation of FRS 17 'Retirement Benefits' has required a change to the accounting treatment of pensions, with the prior year results being restated accordingly, as follows:

Group and Company balance sheets

	As previously reported at 31		Total
Group and company	December 2004 £'000	Adoption of FRS 17 £'000	Total shareholders' funds £'000
Pension liability		(662)	(662)

Under FRS 17, the difference between the market value of the assets of the pension fund and the present value of the accrued pension liabilities is shown as an asset or a liability on the balance sheet net of deferred tax and of provision for unfunded pension obligations.

Consolidated profit and loss account

	As previously reported at 31 December 2004	Adoption of FRS 17 £'000	Total shareholders' funds £'000
Administrative expenses Finance income	2,834	8	2,842
	(88)	(3)	(91)

The profit and loss charge, under SSAP 24, comprises a regular pension cost net of spreading of the surplus over the average remaining service lives of the relevant employees and a notional interest credit. Under FRS 17, three net items are included in the profit and loss account:

Charged to operating profit

- the full service cost of the pension provision relating to the period;

Included in other interest receivable and similar income / other finance expenditure

- a charge equal to the expected increase in the present value of the scheme liabilities because the benefits are closer to settlement; and netted against this;
- a credit equivalent to the Group's long-term expected return on assets based on market value of the scheme assets at the start of the period;

Included in the statement of total recognised gains and losses

- the difference between the expected return on pension assets and that actually achieved along with differences which arise from experience or assumption changes in pension liabilities.

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2005

3. Profit and loss account

As permitted by Section 230 of the Companies Act 1985, the profit and loss account of the parent company is not presented as part of these accounts. The parent company's profit before tax for the financial year amounted to £267,000 (2004 profit -£1,042,000).

4. Turnover

The directors consider there to be one class of business, being that of grain merchants. All turnover is generated in the UK. Turnover by destination was:

	2005 £'000	2004 £'000
United Kingdom Other European countries	95,433 62,548	95,012 40,602
	157,981	135,614

The group does not believe it is practical to provide a georgraphical analysis of its profit before tax and net assets.

5. Other interest receivable and similar income

		2005 £'000	2004 (restated) £'000
	Other interest receivable and similar income Other finance income (see note 20)	115	88
		115	91
6.	Interest payable and similar charges		
		2005 £'000	2004 £'000
	Interest payable to Group companies	52	44
	Bank loans and overdrafts	34	38
	Other interest paid	3	-
	Other finance expenditure (see note 20)		
		109	82
			 =

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2005

7. Operating profit

		2005 £'000	2004 (restated) £'000
	Operating profit is after charging:		
	Auditors' remuneration		
	- Audit fees	47	44
	- Other services	18	24
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	114	130
	Rentals under operating leases		~~
	- Plant and machinery	57	60
	- Other operating leases	68	68
	(Loss)/profit on foreign exchange	(61)	
8.	Information regarding directors and employees		
		2005	2004
		2005	(restated)
	Directors' emoluments	£'000	£'000
	Emoluments	168	170
	Entotations	100	170
	Pension costs	15	15
			150
	Remuneration of the highest paid director	168	<u> </u>
	Highest paid director's pension costs	15	15
		No.	No.
	Number of directors who are members of the		
	defined benefit pension scheme	1	1
		£'000	£'000
	Employee costs during the year		
	Wages and salaries	1,712	1,829
	Social security costs	169	182
	Other pension costs	278	208
		2,159	2,219
	Average number of persons employed by the group in the year		
		No.	No.
	Trading activities	19	19
	Service activities	11	12
	Administrative activities		19
		49	50

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2005

9. Tax charge on profit on ordinary activities

	2005 £'000	2004 £'000
UK corporation tax at 30% (2004 – 30%)	(52)	(275)
Group relief receivable	· -	(10)
Adjustment in respect of prior years	1	97
Company's total current year tax Deferred taxation	(51)	(188)
Timing differences	(47)	(48)
Adjustment on FRS 17	18	
	(80)	(236)
Factors affecting tax charge		
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation	2005 £'000	2004 £'000
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation		
Profit on ordinary activities before taxation Tax charge at 30% thereon	£'000	£'000
Tax charge at 30% thereon Effects of:	£'000 267	£'000 1,047
Tax charge at 30% thereon Effects of: Capital allowances in excess of depreciation	£'000 267 (80)	£'000 1,047 (314)
Tax charge at 30% thereon Effects of: Capital allowances in excess of depreciation Movement in short-term timing differences	£'000 267 (80)	£'000 1,047 (314)
Tax charge at 30% thereon Effects of: Capital allowances in excess of depreciation Movement in short-term timing differences Proceeds in excess of cost on sale of qualifying assets	£'000 267 (80) 35 11 13	£'000 1,047 (314)
Tax charge at 30% thereon Effects of: Capital allowances in excess of depreciation Movement in short-term timing differences Proceeds in excess of cost on sale of qualifying assets Adjustment in respect of FRS 17	£'000 267 (80) 35 11 13 (18)	1,047 (314)
Tax charge at 30% thereon Effects of: Capital allowances in excess of depreciation Movement in short-term timing differences Proceeds in excess of cost on sale of qualifying assets Adjustment in respect of FRS 17 Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	£'000 267 (80) 35 11 13 (18) (13)	1,047 (314) 13 35 - (9)
Tax charge at 30% thereon Effects of: Capital allowances in excess of depreciation Movement in short-term timing differences Proceeds in excess of cost on sale of qualifying assets Adjustment in respect of FRS 17	£'000 267 (80) 35 11 13 (18)	1,047 (314)
Tax charge at 30% thereon Effects of: Capital allowances in excess of depreciation Movement in short-term timing differences Proceeds in excess of cost on sale of qualifying assets Adjustment in respect of FRS 17 Expenses not deductible for tax purposes	£'000 267 (80) 35 11 13 (18) (13)	1,047 (314) 13 35 - (9)

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2005

10. Deferred tax

Group and company (note 15)	2005 £'000	2004 £'000
Asset at 1 January Charged to the profit and loss account	(47)	48 (48)
As at 31 December	(47)	<u>-</u>
The amounts of deferred taxation provided in the accounts are as follows:		
	2005 £'000	2004 £'000
Capital allowances in excess of depreciation Short-term timing differences	(54)	- -
	(47)	-

11. Tangible fixed assets

Freehold land and buildings £'000	Plant and machinery £'000	Motor vehicles £'000	Office equipment and fixtures and fittings £'000	Total £'000
1.015	720	1.40	000	2.075
1,013				2,875 308
(157)	(54)	(85)		(301)
858	766	86	1,172	2,882
607	707	87	779	2,180
35	13	20	46	114
(97)	(54)	(47)	(5)	(203)
545	666	60	820	2,091
				
313	100	26	352	791
408	22	62	203	695
	land and buildings £'000 1,015 (157) 858 607 35 (97) 545	land and buildings £'000 1,015 729 - 91 (157) (54) 858 766 607 707 35 13 (97) (54) 545 666 313 100	land and buildings £'000 Plant and machinery £'000 Motor vehicles £'000 1,015 729 149 - 91 22 (157) (54) (85) 858 766 86 607 707 87 35 13 20 (97) (54) (47) 545 666 60 313 100 26	Freehold land and Plant and buildings machinery £'000 £'000 £'000 £'000 £'000 1,015 729 149 982 - 91 22 195 (157) (54) (85) (5) 858 766 86 1,172 607 707 87 779 35 13 20 46 (97) (54) (47) (5) 545 666 60 820 313 100 26 352

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2005

12. Fixed asset investments

(Company				Subsidiaries
	Cost: At 1 January 2005 and 31 Decemb	per 2005			<u>£</u> 3
:	Subsidiaries	Country of registration	Description of holding	Proportion held	Nature of business
	Ceres (U.K.) Limited Grainman Limited	England and Wales England and Wales	Ordinary shares Ordinary shares	100% 100%	Non-trading Non-trading
13.	Stocks				
•	Group and Company			2005 £'000	2004 £'000
(Goods held for resale			5,242	9,513
,	The replacement cost of stocks is r	not materially different f	rom the above valua	tion.	
14. 1	Debtors				
ı	Group and Company			2005 £'000	2004 (restated) £'000
(Trade debtors Amounts owed by group undertak: Other debtors Group relief receivable Corporation tax recoverable Prepayments and accrued income	ings		9,975 690 2,669 - 56	8,225 1,114 513 120 45
15.	Cuaditara amounta fallina dua v	vithin and vac		13,390	10,017
	Creditors: amounts falling due v Group and company	vitimi one year		2005 £'000	
, ((Bank loans and overdraft Trade creditors Amounts owed to fellow subsidiar Other creditors Corporation tax payable Deferred tax Accruals and deferred income	ies		5,402 9,401 2 139 17 47 152	3,287 11,620 875 115 130

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2005

16. Called up share capital

	2005	2004
	£'000	£'000
Authorised, allotted, called up and fully paid		
Equity - 300,000 ordinary shares of 1p each	3	3
Non-equity 300,000 deferred shares of £1 each	300	300
	303	303

Rights attaching to deferred shares:

- (i) Dividend rights
 - The right to receive by way of dividend in respect of any year or other financial period of the company in which the profits of the company exceed £150,000,000, after payment in full of dividends on all other classes of shares of the company, a dividend at the rate of one half the rate of dividend paid on the ordinary shares of the company in respect of such period.
- (ii) Voting rights
 - No right to receive notice of or to attend or vote at any general meeting of the company except only in respect of a resolution varying the rights of such deferred shares.
- (iii) Rights on winding up
 - No right to receive any payment out of the surplus assets of the company remaining after paying its liabilities other than the amount paid up on these shares.
- (iv) Redemption Rights

There are no redemption rights held on these shares.

17. Reconciliation of movement in shareholders' funds

Group and company	Issued share capital £'000	Profit and loss account £'000	Total shareholders' funds £'000
Balance at 1 January 2005 (restated)	303	3,051	3,354
Profit for the financial year	-	187	187
Actuarial loss on pension liability net of deferred taxation		(167)	(167)
Balance at 31 December 2005	303	3,071	3,374

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2005

19.

18. Notes to the consolidated cash flow statement

(i)	Reconciliation of operating profit to net cash (outflow)/inflow from operating	g activities	
		2005 £'000	2004 (restated) £'000
	Operating profit	81	1,024
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	114	130
	Decrease in stocks	4,271	1,064
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(4,006)	2,342
	Decrease in creditors	(3,098)	(2,453)
	Increase in net pension liability	58	8
	Net cash (outflow)/ inflow from operating activities	(2,580)	2,115
(ii)	Reconciliation of net cashflow to movement in net debt (Decrease)/increase in cash in the year Change in net debt resulting from cashflows	2005 £'000 (2,115) (2,115)	2004 £'000 1,979 1,979
	Net debt at 1 January	(3,287)	(5,266)
	Net debt at 31 December	(5,402)	(3,287)
Cont	ingent liabilities		
Grou	p and Company		
Guar	rantees	2005 £'000	2004 £'000
	antees in favour of the Rural Payments Agency	12,000	12,000
VAT	deferment guarantee	1,000	1,000

Guarantees are lodged with the Rural Payments Agency (previously the Intervention Board for Agricultural Produce) and the Irish Intervention Agency in order to ensure that certain EU obligations are complied with. Guarantees are required for applications for import and export licences, advance payment, intervention and set-aside schemes.

Guarantees remain in place until the trader provides proof that the obligations have been met. Guarantees may be forfeited if any obligations are not met, including those related to time limits. In the event of a valid forfeit, the company is given 30 days to settle before the guarantor is required to pay.

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2005

20. Pension commitments

The company has adopted FRS 17 during the year, which has required a change in the method of accounting for retirement benefits. Full details of the impact on the current and prior year results is given in note 2. The company operates a funded pension scheme providing benefits based on final pensionable pay. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company, being invested with insurance companies.

Qualified actuaries carry out full SSAP 24 valuations on a triennial basis, the last one being to 31 December 2003, using the projected unit credit method. The assumptions which have the most significant effect on the results of the valuation are those relating to the rate of return on investments and the rates of increase in salaries and pensions. It was assumed that the investment returns would be 6.4% per annum, that salary increases would average 4.3% per annum and that a proportion of members would withdraw from service each year other than by retirement.

Actuarial assumptions

The principal assumptions used to determine the actuarial present value of benefit obligations and pension costs are detailed below:

	2005	2004	2003
	%	%	%
Average discount rate for plan liabilities	4.8	5.3	5.8
Average rate of inflation	2.7	2.6	2.3
Average rate of increase in salaries	4.7	4.6	4.3
Average rate of increase of pensions in payment	2.9	2.8	2.3
Average long-term rate of return on plan assets	5.8	6.1	6.4

FRS 17 Balance sheet disclosure

	2005 Rate of return %	2005 Fair value £'000	2004 Rate of return %	2004 Fair value £'000	2003 Rate of return %	2003 Fair value £'000
Equity	6.1	4,302	6.5	3,245	6.8	2,977
Bonds	4.1	766	4.5	853	4.8	785
Property	6.1	233	6.5	256		-
Cash	4.5	180	4.75	51		
Total market value of assets		5,481		4,405		3,762
Present value of scheme liabilities		(6,751)		(5,351)		(4,122)
Deficit in the pension plan		(1,270)		(946)		(360)
Deferred tax		381		284		108
Net pension liability		(889)		(662)		(252)

The increase in the deficit is due to the continuing decline in the bond rate, which is used to discount scheme liabilities to their present value.

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2005

20. Pension commitments (continued)

FRS 17 Profit and loss account disclosure

	2005 £'000	2004 £'000
Analysis of the amount charged to operating profit Current service cost	258	201
Total operating charge	258	201
Analysis of the amount charged / (credited) to other interest Expected return on plan assets Interest cost on plan liabilities	(273) 293	(251) 248
Net charge/(credit) to other interest	20	(3)
Total charge to the profit and loss account	278	198

FRS 17 Statement of total recognised gains and losses disclosure

Amounts included in the consolidated STRGL for 2005 in respect of the defined benefit plan are as follows:

	£'000	£'000
Difference between actual and expected return on plan assets Experience gains arising on plan liabilities Effects of changes in assumptions underlying the plan liabilities	531 37 (806)	128 65 (771)
Total actuarial gains and losses recognised in the STRGL	(238)	(578)

The difference of £531,000 between actual and expected return on plan assets is 9.7% of the plan assets as at 31 December 2005. The experience gains of £37,000 arising on plan liabilities represent 0.1% of the present value of scheme liabilities at 31 December 2005. The total actuarial loss of £806,000 represents 11.9% of the present value of scheme liabilities as at 31 December 2005.

FRS 17 Analysis of movement in deficit during the year

	2005 £'000	2004 £'000
As at 1 January	(946)	(360)
Current service cost	(258)	(201)
Employer contributions	192	190
Other interest (expense)/income	(20)	3
Actuarial loss	(238)	(578)
As at 31 December	(1,270)	(946)
As at 31 December	(1,270)	

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2005

20. Pension commitments (continued)

History between the expected and actual return on scheme assets:

	2005 £000	2004 £000	2003 £000	2002 £000
Difference between the expected and actual return on scheme assets				
Amount (£'000)	531	128	232	(692)
Percentage of scheme assets	9.7%	2.9%	6.2%	(22.5%)
Experience gains and losses on scheme liabilities				
Amount $(£,000)$	37	65	405	55
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	0.5%	1.2%	9.8%	1.4%
Total amount recognised in statement of total recognised gains and losses				
Amount (£'000)	(238)	(578)	726	(679)
Percentage of the present value of the scheme liabilities	(3.5%)	(10.8%)	17.6%	(16.7%)

21. Other financial commitments

At 31 December 2005 the company and the group have annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2005		2004	
	Land and buildings £'000	Other £'000	Land and Buildings £'000	Other £'000
Leases which expire:				
Within one year	-	22	-	-
Within two to five years	-	6	-	58
After five years	<u></u> 66		66	
	66	28	66	58

22. Ultimate parent company and controlling party

The ultimate parent company and controlling party is Glencore International AG, a company incorporated in Switzerland.

Notes to the accounts Year ended 31 December 2005

23. Related party transactions

The transactions noted below were entered into with fellow group companies, Glencore International AG and Glencore Espana SA. All these transactions were executed on normal commercial terms and conditions. The nature of the transactions was as follows:

(a) Trading activities:

- (i) sales and purchases of physical commodities; and
- (ii) sales and purchases of commodity futures.

(b) Service activities:

service fees receivable and payable for technical support and administration.

(c) Financial activities: interest receivable and payable on intercompany current accounts.

Value of transactions

Type of transaction	2005 £'000	2004 £'000
Completed sales of physical commodities	45,093	27,780
Open sales of physical commodities	2,556	3,833
Completed purchases of physical commodities	5,397	1,543
Open purchases of physical commodities	-	364
Interest payable	52	44

Balances with related parties

The following were the balances with related parties at the end of the year.

	Group and	Group and Company	
	2005 £'000	2004 £'000	
Amount owed by group undertakings	690	-	
Group relief receivable	<u>-</u>	513	
Amount owed to fellow subsidiaries	2	875	
Amount owed to renow bucordiaries			