

ARTHUR
ANDERSEN

Provincial & Northern Properties Limited

Accounts 30 June 1998
together with directors' and auditors' reports

Registered number: 3100498



DIRECTORS

H.N. Moser

M.B. Richards

(Appointed 6 August 1998)

SECRETARY

G.D. Beckett

(Appointed 6 August 1998)

REGISTERED OFFICE

Bracken House

Charles Street

Manchester

M1 7BD

AUDITORS

Arthur Andersen

Bank House

9 Charlotte Street

Manchester

M1 4EU

BANKERS

British Linen Bank Limited

Ship Canal House

94 King Street

Manchester

M2 4WU

Directors' report

For the year ended 30 June 1998

The directors present the annual report on the affairs of the company, together with the accounts and auditors' report, for the year ended 30 June 1998.

Directors' responsibilities

Company law requires the directors to prepare accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing those accounts, 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, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts; and
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company 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 to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 1985. 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.

Principal activity

The principal activity is that of a property holding company.

Results and dividend

The results for the period are set out in detail on page 5. The directors do not recommend the payment of a dividend.

Directors

The present directors of the company is set out on page 1. C.J. Punshon died on 16 June 1998.

H.N. Moser is a director of the company's parent company, Blemain Group plc and as such, his interest in the share capital of that company is disclosed in its directors' report.

No director has, or had any material interest in any contract or agreement entered into by the company during the year.

Directors' report (continued)

Auditors

The directors will place a resolution before the annual general meeting to reappoint Arthur Andersen as auditors for the ensuing year.

By order of the Board,



G.D. Beckett
Secretary

18 December 1998

ARTHUR ANDERSEN

Auditors' report

Manchester

To the Shareholders of Provincial & Northern Properties Limited:

We have audited the accounts on pages 5 to 10 which have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 7.

Respective responsibilities of director and auditors

As described on page 2 the company's directors are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. It is our responsibility to form an independent opinion, based on our audit, on those accounts and to report our opinion to you.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Auditing Standards issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the director in the preparation of the accounts and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, 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 accounts 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 accounts.

Opinion

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view of the company's state of affairs at 30 June 1998 and of its loss for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.

Arthur Andersen

Arthur Andersen

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Bank House
9 Charlotte Street
Manchester
M1 4EU

18 December 1998

Profit and loss account

For the year ended 30 June 1998

	Notes	1998 £	1997 £
Turnover	2	63,649	61,707
Operating expenses		(36,555)	-
Operating profit		<u>27,094</u>	<u>61,707</u>
Gain on sale of investment property		17,334	8,987
Interest payable	4	(49,701)	(45,859)
(Loss) profit on ordinary activities before taxation		<u>(5,273)</u>	<u>24,835</u>
Tax on profit on ordinary activities	5	(243)	(3,860)
(Loss) profit for the financial year	9	<u>(5,516)</u>	<u>20,975</u>

All activity has arisen from continuing operations. The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the loss for the financial year.

A statement of movement in reserves is shown in note 9.

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the profit and loss account.

Balance sheet

30 June 1998

	Notes	1998 £	1997 £
Fixed assets			
Investment properties	6	<u>553,693</u>	<u>863,580</u>
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		100	100
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	7	<u>(538,234)</u>	<u>(842,605)</u>
Net current liabilities		<u>(538,134)</u>	<u>(842,505)</u>
Net assets		<u>15,559</u>	<u>21,075</u>
Capital and reserves			
Called-up share capital	8	100	100
Profit and loss account	9	<u>15,459</u>	<u>20,975</u>
Equity shareholders' funds	10	<u>15,559</u>	<u>21,075</u>

Signed on behalf of the Board

M.B. Richards



Director

H.N. Moser



Director

18 December 1998

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the balance sheet.

Notes to accounts

30 June 1998

1 Accounting policies

A summary of the principal accounting policies, all of which have been applied consistently throughout the current year and the preceding period, is set out below.

a) Basis of accounting

The accounts are prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards under the historical cost convention as modified by the revaluation of investment properties including SSAP 19, which unlike the detailed rules of the Companies Act does not require depreciation of freehold and long leasehold investment properties. In addition, grants received in respect of investment properties under construction have been deducted from the cost of such assets, which is also not in accordance with the detailed rules of the Companies Act. The effect of this is to reduce the value of the assets by £1,240,428 (1997 - £986,500). The lack of depreciation and treatment of grants are necessary to give a true and fair view for the reason explained below in the investment properties accounting policy note.

b) Investment properties

A valuation of investment properties is made annually as at the balance sheet date by the directors, at open market value. Changes in the market value of investment properties are accounted for by way of a movement in revaluation reserve and are included in the statement of total recognised gains and losses unless a deficit (or its reversal) on an individual investment property is expected by the directors to be permanent, in which case the change in market value is charged (credited) to the profit and loss account. On disposal, the cumulative revaluation surpluses or deficits are transferred from the revaluation reserve to the profit and loss account reserve.

Additions to investment properties under development comprise construction costs excluding attributable interest incurred in bringing a project to its present state of completion.

In accordance with SSAP 19 no depreciation or amortisation is provided in respect of freehold investment properties and leasehold investment properties with over 20 years to run. The requirement of the Companies Act 1985 is to depreciate all properties, but that requirement conflicts with the generally accepted accounting principle set out in SSAP 19. The directors consider that, as these properties are not held for consumption but for investment, to depreciate them would not give a true and fair view, and that it is necessary to adopt SSAP 19 in order to give a true and fair view. If this departure from the Act had not been made the profit for the financial year would have been decreased by depreciation. However, the amount of depreciation cannot reasonably be quantified, because of the lack of analysis of the cost/value as between land and buildings.

c) Turnover

Turnover, which is derived wholly within the UK, consists of rental income.

d) Taxation

Corporation tax payable is provided on taxable profits at the current rate.

Advance corporation tax payable on dividends paid or provided for in the period is written off, except when recoverability against corporation tax payable is considered to be reasonably assured. Credit is taken for advance corporation tax written off in previous periods when it is recovered against corporation tax liabilities.

Notes to accounts (continued)

2 Turnover

	1998 £	1997 £
Rental income	<u>63,649</u>	<u>61,707</u>

3 Staff costs

The company had no employees and paid no directors' emoluments during the year or prior year.

4 Interest payable

	1998 £	1997 £
Interest on bank overdraft	<u>49,701</u>	<u>45,859</u>

5 Tax on (loss) profit on ordinary activities

	1998 £	1997 £
Corporation tax at 21% (1997 - 23¼%)	-	3,860
Adjustment relating to prior periods	<u>243</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>243</u>	<u>3,860</u>

There is no unprovided deferred tax at the year end (1997 - £Nil).

6 Fixed assets

	Assets under construction £	Investment properties £	Total £
Beginning of year	863,580	-	863,580
Grants received	(253,928)	-	(253,928)
Transfer	(609,652)	609,652	-
Disposals	-	(55,959)	(55,959)
End of year	<u>-</u>	<u>553,693</u>	<u>553,693</u>

Investment properties are stated at cost less grants received in relation to the properties of £1,240,428 (1997 - £986,500).

Notes to accounts (continued)

7 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	1998 £	1997 £
Amounts owed to group undertaking	476,131	780,745
Corporation tax	4,103	3,860
Other creditor	58,000	58,000
	<u>538,234</u>	<u>842,605</u>

8 Share capital

	1998 £	1997 £
<i>Authorised, allotted, called-up and fully paid</i>		
100 Ordinary shares of £1 each	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

9 Profit and loss account

	1998 £	1997 £
(Loss) profit for the financial year	(5,516)	20,975
Beginning of year	20,975	-
End of year	<u>15,459</u>	<u>20,975</u>

10 Reconciliation of movements in equity shareholders' funds

	1998 £	1997 £
(Loss) profit for the financial year	(5,516)	20,975
Opening shareholders' funds	21,075	100
Closing shareholders' funds	<u>15,559</u>	<u>21,075</u>

Notes to accounts (continued)

11 Capital commitments

Capital expenditure commitments which are contracted for but not provided for and represent refurbishment work on investment properties were £Nil at 30 June 1998 (1997 - £152,816). Grants in respect of this work and work already paid for, totalling £Nil (1997 - £467,453) are receivable by the company.

12 Contingent liabilities

The company's assets are subject to a fixed and floating charge in respect of £27 million of bank borrowings of the group (1997 - £20 million).

13 Cash flow statement

As permitted by Financial Reporting Standard No. 1 1996 (revised), the company has not produced a cash flow statement, as it is a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking of Blemain Group plc which has produced a consolidated cash flow in its accounts.

14 Related party transactions

As a subsidiary undertaking of Blemain Group plc, the company has taken advantage of the exemption in FRS 8, "Related party disclosures" not to disclose transactions with other members of the group headed by Blemain Group plc.

15 Ultimate parent company

The company is a wholly owned subsidiary undertaking of Blemain Group plc, a company incorporated in Great Britain and registered in England and Wales.

The largest and smallest group of which Provincial & Northern Properties Limited is a member and for which group accounts are drawn up is that headed by the Blemain Group plc, whose principal place of business is at Bracken House, Charles Street, Manchester M1 7BD.