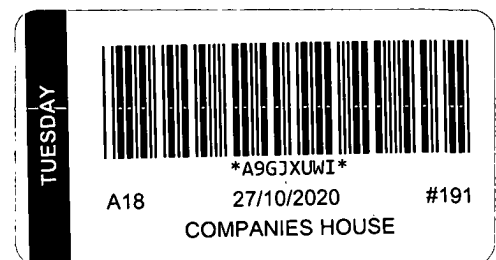


Registered number: 08938502

Birch Estate Solar Limited

**Directors' report and financial statements
for the year ended 30 June 2020**



Birch Estate Solar Limited

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Birch Estate Solar Limited

Company information

Directors	J C N Digges D Hastings P S Latham T J Rosser M G Setchell
Company secretary	Octopus Company Secretarial Services Limited
Registered number	08938502
Registered office	6th Floor 33 Holborn London EC1N 2HT
Independent auditors	PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors Central Square South Orchard Street Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 3AZ

Birch Estate Solar Limited

Directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2020

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements of the company for the year ended 30 June 2020.

Principal activities

The principal activity of the company is the operation of solar plants for the generation of solar power.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis. The directors have assessed the effects of COVID-19 on the company's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, and determined that based on recent trading of the company and revised projections, the pandemic is not expected to have a significant impact on the company's business. Further, the ultimate controlling party, Fern Trading Limited, will continue to support the operations of the company for a period of at least 12 months from the date on which the financial statements are approved. The directors will continue to monitor the situation and take any necessary actions to minimise the possible impacts of COVID-19.

Directors

The directors who served during the year and up to the date of signing the financial statements, unless otherwise indicated, are given below:

J C N Digges
D Hastings
P S Latham
T J Rosser
M G Setchell

Statement of directors' responsibilities

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have prepared the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" Section 1A, 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 of the company for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- state whether applicable United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 Section 1A, have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors 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.

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.

Birch Estate Solar Limited

Directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2020

Statement of disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are directors at the time of approval of this report has confirmed that:

- so far as that director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and
- that director has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a director in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's auditors are aware of that information.

Independent auditors

The auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, will be proposed for reappointment in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

Small company exemption

In preparing this report, the directors have taken advantage of the small company exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors have also taken advantage of the small company exemptions provided by section 414B of the Companies Act 2006 and have not prepared a strategic report.

This report was approved by the board on 14 October 2020 and signed on its behalf.



T J Rosser
Director

Birch Estate Solar Limited

Independent auditors' report to the members of Birch Estate Solar Limited

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

In our opinion, Birch Estate Solar Limited's financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 30 June 2020 and of its loss for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" Section 1A, and applicable law); and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

We have audited the financial statements, included within the Directors' report and financial statements (the "Annual Report"), which comprise: the Balance sheet as at 30 June 2020 and the Statement of income and retained earnings for the year then ended; and the notes to the financial statements, which include a description of the significant accounting policies.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) ("ISAs (UK)") and applicable law. Our responsibilities under ISAs (UK) are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We remained independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, which includes the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the company's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

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.

Birch Estate Solar Limited

Independent auditors' report to the members of Birch Estate Solar Limited

Reporting on other information

The other information comprises all of the information in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this report, any form of assurance thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify an apparent material inconsistency or material misstatement, we are required to perform procedures to conclude whether there is a material misstatement of the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report based on these responsibilities.

With respect to the Directors' report, we also considered whether the disclosures required by the UK Companies Act 2006 have been included.

Based on the responsibilities described above and our work undertaken in the course of the audit, ISAs (UK) require us also to report certain opinions and matters as described below.

Directors' report

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, the information given in the Directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2020 is consistent with the financial statements and has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

In light of the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we did not identify any material misstatements in the Directors' report.

Responsibilities for the financial statements and the audit

Responsibilities of the directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of directors' responsibilities, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable framework and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. The directors are also responsible for such internal control as they 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.

Birch Estate Solar Limited

Independent auditors' report to the members of Birch Estate Solar Limited

Auditors' 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 auditors' 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.

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

Use of this report

This report, including the opinions, has been prepared for and only for the company's members as a body in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving these opinions, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Other required reporting

Companies Act 2006 exception reporting

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion:

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

We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.

Entitlement to exemptions

Under the Companies Act 2006 we are required to report to you if, in our opinion, the directors were not entitled to: prepare financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime; take advantage of the small companies exemption in preparing the Directors' report; and take advantage of the small companies exemption from preparing a strategic report. We have no exceptions to report arising from this responsibility.



Nicholas Cook (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Newcastle upon Tyne
Date: 14 October 2020

Birch Estate Solar Limited

Statement of income and retained earnings for the year ended 30 June 2020

	2020 £	2019 £
Turnover	642,182	691,656
Cost of sales	(307,090)	(304,572)
Gross profit	335,092	387,084
Administrative expenses	(408,077)	(97,624)
Other operating income	1,500	-
Operating (loss)/profit	(71,485)	289,460
Interest payable and similar charges	(132,774)	(144,899)
(Loss)/profit on ordinary activities before taxation	(204,259)	144,561
Tax on (loss)/profit on ordinary activities	-	-
(Loss)/profit for the financial year	(204,259)	144,561
Retained earnings at the beginning of the year	(288,801)	(433,362)
(Loss)/profit for the financial year	(204,259)	144,561
Retained earnings at the end of the year	(493,060)	(288,801)

All amounts above relate to continuing operations.

The company has no items of other comprehensive income for the current or preceding financial year. Therefore no separate statement of other comprehensive income has been presented.

The notes on pages 9 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet
as at 30 June 2020

	Note	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £	2019 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible fixed assets	4		4,156,712		4,357,519
Current assets					
Debtors	5	258,158		257,304	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	<u>(4,907,930)</u>		<u>(4,903,624)</u>	
Net current liabilities			(4,649,772)		(4,646,320)
Net liabilities			<u>(493,060)</u>		<u>(288,801)</u>
Capital and Reserves					
Called up share capital	7		-		-
Retained earnings			(493,060)		(288,801)
Total shareholders' deficit			<u>(493,060)</u>		<u>(288,801)</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the provisions of Financial Reporting Standard 102, "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland" as amended by Section 1A "Small Entities".

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf on 14 October 2020.



T J Rosser
Director

The notes on pages 9 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

Birch Estate Solar Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

1. General information

Birch Estate Solar Limited is a private company, limited by shares, incorporated in and domiciled in England, the United Kingdom, registered number: 08938502. The registered office is 6th Floor, 33 Holborn, London, EC1N 2HT.

The principal activity of the company is the operation of solar plants for the generation of solar power.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis, under the historical cost convention and in accordance with Section 1A of Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland and the Companies Act 2006.

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the company accounting policies. No critical judgements have been applied to these financial statements.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

2.2 Exemptions for qualifying entities under FRS 102

FRS 102 allows a qualifying entity certain disclosure exemptions, subject to certain conditions, which have been complied with, including notification of, and no objection to, the use of exemptions by the company's shareholders.

The company has taken advantage of the following exemptions:

- from preparing a statement of cash flows, required under Section 7 of FRS 102 and para 3.17(d), on the basis that it is a small company;
- from disclosing the company's key management personnel compensation as required by FRS 102 para 33.7; and
- from disclosing related party transactions that are wholly owned within the same group.

2.3 Going concern

The directors believe that preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis is appropriate as the ultimate controlling party, Fern Trading Limited, will continue to support the operations of the company for a period of at least 12 months from the date on which the financial statements are approved.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the directors of the ultimate controlling party, Fern Trading Limited, have performed an assessment to determine whether there are any material uncertainties arising that could cast significant doubt on its ability to continue to support the company. This assessment, which included stress testing the Group's cashflow forecasts and revenue generation, did not highlight any concern over Fern Trading Limited's ability to provide continued support. Further information can be found in Fern Trading Limited's consolidated financial statements, which can be obtained from the Company Secretary, 6th Floor, 33 Holborn, London, EC1N 2HT.

Birch Estate Solar Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 Foreign currency

(i) Functional and presentation currency

The company's functional and presentation currency is the pound sterling.

(ii) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the spot exchange rates at the dates of the transactions.

At each period end foreign currency monetary items are translated using the closing rate. Non-monetary items measured at historical cost are translated using the exchange rate at the date of the transaction and non-monetary items measured at fair value are measured using the exchange rate when fair value was determined.

Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of transactions and from the translation at period end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the statement of income and retained earnings within administrative expenses.

2.5 Revenue

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the company and the revenue can be reliably measured. Revenue is measured as the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes.

Revenue is derived from the electricity generated by solar farms and is recognised on an accruals basis in the period in which it is generated.

Birch Estate Solar Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes the original purchase price of the asset and the costs attributable to bringing the asset to its working condition for its intended use.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted, if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period. The effect of any change is accounted for prospectively.

Repairs, maintenance and minor inspection costs are expensed as incurred.

Tangible fixed assets are derecognised on disposal or when no future economic benefits are expected. On disposal, the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount is recognised in the statement of income and retained earnings. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following basis:

Long-term leasehold property	- over the period of the lease
Plant and machinery	- 4% and 10% straight-line

2.7 Impairment of non-financial assets

At each reporting date non-financial assets not carried at fair value are assessed to determine whether there is an indication that the asset (or asset's cash generating unit) may be impaired. If there is such an indication the recoverable amount of the asset (or asset's cash generating unit) is compared to the carrying amount of the asset (or asset's cash generating unit).

The recoverable amount of the asset (or asset's cash generating unit) is the higher of the fair value less costs to sell and value in use. Value in use is defined as the present value of the future cash flows before interest and tax obtainable as a result of the asset's (or asset's cash generating unit) continued use. These cash flows are discounted using a pre-tax discount rate that represents the current market risk-free rate and the risks inherent in the asset.

If the recoverable amount of the asset (or asset's cash generating unit) is estimated to be lower than the carrying amount, the carrying amount is reduced to its recoverable amount. An impairment loss is recognised in the statement of income and retained earnings, unless the asset has been revalued when the amount is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of any previously recognised revaluation. Thereafter any excess is recognised in the statement of income and retained earnings.

If an impairment loss is subsequently reversed, the carrying amount of the asset (or asset's cash generating unit) is increased to the revised estimate of its recoverable amount, but only to the extent that the revised carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined (net of depreciation or amortisation) had no impairment loss been recognised in prior periods. A reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the statement of income and retained earnings.

Birch Estate Solar Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.8 Leasing and hire purchase

Assets obtained under hire purchase contracts and finance leases are capitalised as tangible fixed assets. Assets acquired by finance lease are depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and their useful lives. Assets acquired by hire purchase are depreciated over their useful lives. Finance leases are those where substantially all of the benefits and risks of ownership are assumed by the company. Obligations under such agreements are included in creditors net of the finance charge allocated to future periods. The finance element of the rental payment is charged to the statement of income and retained earnings so as to produce a constant periodic rate of charge on the net obligation outstanding in each period.

2.9 Operating leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the statement of income and retained earnings on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

2.10 Taxation

Taxation expense for the period comprises current and deferred tax recognised in the reporting period. Tax is recognised in the statement of income and retained earnings, except to the extent that it relates to items recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity. In this case tax is also recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity respectively.

Current or deferred taxation assets and liabilities are not discounted.

(i) Current tax

Current tax is the amount of income tax payable in respect of the taxable profit for the period or prior periods. Tax is calculated on the basis of tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the period end.

(ii) Deferred tax

Deferred tax arises from timing differences that are differences between taxable profits and total comprehensive income as stated in the financial statements. These timing differences arise from the inclusion of income and expenses in tax assessments in periods different from those in which they are recognised in the financial statements.

Deferred tax is recognised on all timing differences at the reporting date. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are only recognised when it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits.

Deferred tax is measured using tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the period end and that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Birch Estate Solar Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.11 Financial instruments

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the entity after deducting all of its financial liabilities.

Where the contractual obligations of financial instruments (including share capital) are equivalent to a similar debt instrument, those financial instruments are classed as financial liabilities. Financial liabilities are presented as such on the balance sheet. Finance costs and gains or losses relating to financial liabilities are included in the statement of income and retained earnings. Finance costs are calculated so as to produce a constant rate of return on the outstanding liability.

Where the contractual terms of share capital do not have any terms meeting the definition of a financial liability this is classed as an equity instrument. Dividends and distributions relating to equity instruments are debited direct to equity.

2.12 Related party transactions

The company discloses transactions with related parties which are not wholly owned with the same group. It does not disclose transactions with members of the same group that are wholly owned.

2.13 Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities, arising as a result of past events, are not recognised when (i) it is not probable that there will be an outflow of resources or that the amount cannot be reliably measured at the reporting date or (ii) when the existence will be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of uncertain future events not wholly within the company's control. Contingent liabilities are disclosed in the financial statements unless the probability of an outflow of resource is remote.

Birch Estate Solar Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

3. Employees and directors' remuneration

The company has no employees other than the directors, who did not receive or waive any remuneration (2019: £nil).

4. Tangible fixed assets

	Long-term leasehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 July 2019	231,224	4,844,712	5,075,936
Additions	-	5,220	5,220
At 30 June 2020	<u>231,224</u>	<u>4,849,932</u>	<u>5,081,156</u>
Accumulated depreciation			
At 1 July 2019	32,371	686,046	718,417
Charge for the year	9,249	196,778	206,027
At 30 June 2020	<u>41,620</u>	<u>882,824</u>	<u>924,444</u>
Net book value			
At 30 June 2020	<u>189,604</u>	<u>3,967,108</u>	<u>4,156,712</u>
At 30 June 2019	<u>198,853</u>	<u>4,158,666</u>	<u>4,357,519</u>

5. Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	30,564	30,236
Other debtors	2,332	7,169
Prepayments and accrued income	225,262	219,899
	<u>258,158</u>	<u>257,304</u>

Birch Estate Solar Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

6. Creditors - amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Trade creditors	5,448	45,469
Amounts owed to group undertakings	4,429,421	4,637,058
Other creditors	43,651	43,650
Accruals and deferred income	429,410	177,447
	<u>4,907,930</u>	<u>4,903,624</u>

Included within amounts owed to group undertakings are unsecured loans with year end balances totalling £4,429,421 (2019: £4,637,058). The loans bear interest at 3% (2019: 3%) and are repayable on demand.

Included within accruals and deferred income are costs incurred whilst terminating the former operations and maintenance contracts totalling £318,210 (2019: £nil). An equal and opposite charge has been reflected in the statement of income and retained earnings for the year ended 30 June 2020.

7. Called up share capital

	2020	2019
	£	£
Allotted, called up and fully paid		
1 (2019: 1) Ordinary shares of £0.10	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

8. Contingent liabilities

The company has a constructive obligation to return the land on which solar sites are built to its original condition, at the end of the lease. The directors believe that given the nature of the assets, the lessor may wish to either take title of the assets for either continued use or to realise value through selling the assets and as such the directors do not believe that an outflow is probable to settle this restoration obligation. The directors will continue to monitor this situation at each balance sheet date.

Birch Estate Solar Limited

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020

9. Operating lease commitments

At 30 June 2020 the company had future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Payment due:		
Not later than one year	20,946	20,485
Later than one year and not later than five years	83,784	81,940
Later than five years	333,036	346,198
	<u>437,766</u>	<u>448,623</u>

10. Related party transactions

The company has identified the following transactions which are to be disclosed under the terms of FRS 102 "Related party transactions".

Octopus Investments Limited

During the year, the company was charged expenses of £nil (2019: £469) by Octopus Investments Limited, a related party due to its significant influence over the entity. At the year end, no amount was outstanding (2019: £nil).

11. Ultimate parent undertaking and controlling party

The company's immediate parent undertaking is Sulis Energy Limited.

Viners Energy Limited is the smallest group to consolidate these financial statements.

The ultimate parent undertaking as at the year ended 30 June 2020 was Fern Trading Limited, a company incorporated in the UK. On 10 July 2020, the ultimate parent undertaking changed to Fern Trading Group Limited, also a company incorporated in the UK following the insertion of a new top company to the existing Fern group.

Fern Trading Limited is the largest group of undertakings to consolidate these financial statements. Copies of Fern Trading Limited's consolidated financial statements can be obtained from the Company Secretary, 6th Floor, 33 Holborn, London, EC1N 2HT.