

Registered number: 10909377

AARDMAN FREE RANGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023



AARDMAN FREE RANGE LIMITED

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AARDMAN FREE RANGE LIMITED

COMPANY INFORMATION

Directors	S M Clarke J L Cave (appointed 15 February 2024)
Registered number	10909377
Registered office	Gas Ferry Road Bristol United Kingdom BS1 6UN
Independent auditor	CLA Evelyn Partners Limited Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors Portwall Place Portwall Lane Bristol BS1 6NA
Bankers	Coutts & Co 440 Strand London WC2R 0QS

AARDMAN FREE RANGE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Principal activity

The principal activity of the company during the period was that of film production.

Aardman Free Range Limited was incorporated on 10 August 2017 and has been commissioned to produce the film, 'Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget', which was released in December 2023.

Director

The director who served during the year was:

S M Clarke
J L Cave (appointed 15 February 2024)
P D F Lord (resigned 1 January 2024)
K A Lock (resigned 15 February 2024)

Directors' responsibilities statement

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 elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'. 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 these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the Company's financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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 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 to 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.

AARDMAN FREE RANGE LIMITED

**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the persons who are directors at the time when this Directors' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as the director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Company's auditor is unaware, and
- the 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 auditor is aware of that information.

Auditor

The auditor, CLA Evelyn Partners Limited, will be proposed for reappointment in accordance with section 485 of the Companies Act 2006.

Small companies note

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

This report was approved by the board on 27/03/2024 and signed on its behalf.

Joanna Cave

J L Cave
Director

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AARDMAN FREE RANGE LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Aardman Free Range Limited (the 'company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of income and retained earnings, Balance sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the company's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its result for the year 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, 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.

Emphasis of matter - not a going concern

We draw your attention to note 2.2 to the financial statements which explains that the financial statements have not been prepared on a going concern basis for the reasons set out in that note. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

AARDMAN FREE RANGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AARDMAN FREE RANGE LIMITED

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Directors' report and financial statements, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The directors are responsible for the other information contained within the Directors' report and financial statements. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. 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 this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion 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 Directors' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Directors' report has 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 Directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where 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; or
- the directors were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of directors

As explained more fully in the directors' responsibilities statement set out on page 2, 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.

AARDMAN FREE RANGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AARDMAN FREE RANGE LIMITED

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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We obtained a general understanding of the company's legal and regulatory framework through enquiry of management concerning their understanding of the relevant laws and regulations, the entity's policies and procedures regarding compliance, and how they identify, evaluate and account for litigation claims. We also drew on our existing understanding of the company's industry and regulation.

We understand that the company complies with the framework through:

- Outsourcing statutory accounts preparation and tax compliance to external experts.
- The Directors' close involvement in the day to day running of the business, meaning that any litigation or claims would come to their attention directly.

In the context of the audit, we considered those laws and regulations which determine the form and content of the financial statements, which are central to the company's ability to conduct its business, and/or where there is a risk that failure to comply could result in material penalties. We identified the following laws and regulations as being of significance in the context of the company:

- The Companies Act 2006 and FRS 102 in respect of the preparation and presentation of the financial statements.

The senior statutory auditor led a discussion with senior members of the engagement team regarding the susceptibility of the company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur. The area identified as part of the discussion was the risk of manipulation of the financial statements through manual journal entries. This was communicated to the other members of the engagement team who were not present at the discussion.

The procedures we carried out to gain evidence in the above area included:

- Testing of a sample of manual journal entries, selected through applying specific risk assessments based on the company's processes and controls surrounding manual journal entries.


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

AARDMAN FREE RANGE LIMITED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AARDMAN FREE RANGE LIMITED

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.


Carl Deane (Mar 27, 2024 17:27 GMT)

Carl Deane (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of
CLA Evelyn Partners Limited

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors

Portwall Place
Portwall Lane
Bristol
BS1 6NA
Date: 27/03/2024

AARDMAN FREE RANGE LIMITED

**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Turnover		6,539,178	13,030,999
Cost of sales		(8,601,268)	(16,249,046)
Gross loss		(2,062,090)	(3,218,047)
Other operating income		350,000	-
Operating loss		(1,712,090)	(3,218,047)
Tax on loss		1,712,090	3,218,047
Profit after tax		-	-

There were no recognised gains and losses for 2023 or 2022 other than those included in the statement of income and retained earnings.

There were no retained earnings in 2023 or 2022.

The notes on pages 10 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

AARDMAN FREE RANGE LIMITED
REGISTERED NUMBER:10909377

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Current assets			
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	4	4,979,583	3,305,342
Cash at bank and in hand	5	242,466	1,596,592
		<u>5,222,049</u>	<u>4,901,934</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(5,221,949)	(4,901,834)
Net current assets		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Net assets		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
Capital and reserves			
Called up share capital		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>
		<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with the provisions of FRS 102 Section 1A - small entities.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board and were signed on its behalf on 27/03/2024

Joanna Cave

J L Cave
Director

The notes on pages 10 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

AARDMAN FREE RANGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1. General information

Aardman Free Range Limited is a private company, limited by shares, and incorporated in England and Wales. The address of the registered office is Gas Ferry Road, Bristol, BS1 6UN.

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention unless otherwise specified within these accounting policies 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 following principal accounting policies have been applied:

2.2 Going concern

The company has been incorporated to produce the film 'Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget'. The production of this film was completed and the film was released in 2023. Following the finalisation of film production the company has ceased principal activity and begun the process of realising remaining assets and settling liabilities. Accordingly the financial statements have not been prepared on a going concern basis. As the company expects to realise its assets and settle its liabilities for book value, there have been no adjustments required as a result of not preparing the financial statements on a going concern basis.

2.3 Turnover

The turnover shown in the Statement of income and retained earnings represents amounts earned in relation to the production of 'Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget'. Production funding is recognised in the Statement of income and retained earnings over the period of production.

Where production funds received exceed costs incurred to date, the balance is treated as deferred income and held on the balance sheet until further costs are incurred. At this point it is released to the Statement of income and retained earnings.

2.4 Film tax credit

The company's business model of feature film production incorporates claims under UK film tax credit legislation. These claims are considered to form part of the ordinary activities of the company and are separately disclosed on the face of the Statement of Income and Retained Earnings. The current year UK film tax credit relates to a claim in relation to the film 'Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget'.

AARDMAN FREE RANGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.5 Deferred taxation

Full provision is made for deferred tax assets and liabilities arising from all timing differences between the recognition of gains and losses in the financial statements and recognition in the tax computation.

A net deferred tax asset is recognised only if it can be regarded as more likely than not that there will be suitable taxable profits from which the future reversal of the underlying timing differences can be deducted.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are calculated at the tax rates expected to be effective at the time the timing differences are expected to reverse.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

2.6 Financial instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised in the balance sheet when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Trade and other debtors and creditors are classified as basic financial instruments and measured at initial recognition at transaction price. Debtors and creditors are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. A provision is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents are classified as basic financial instruments and comprise cash in hand and at bank and short-term bank deposits with an original maturity of three months or less.

Financial liabilities and equity instruments issued by the company are classified in accordance with the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into and the definitions of a financial liability and an equity instrument. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities. Equity instruments issued by the company are recorded at the proceeds received, net of direct issue costs.

3. Employees

The average monthly number of employees, including directors, during the year was 47 (2022 - 153).

AARDMAN FREE RANGE LIMITED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

4. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	34,466
Other debtors	-	3,938
VAT repayable	49,664	48,891
Corporation tax repayable	4,929,919	3,218,047
	<u>4,979,583</u>	<u>3,305,342</u>

5. Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>242,466</u>	<u>1,596,592</u>

6. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	74,721	60,627
Amounts owed to group undertakings	7,508	193,627
Accruals and deferred income	5,139,720	4,647,580
	<u>5,221,949</u>	<u>4,901,834</u>

7. Controlling party

The ultimate parent company is Aardman Holdings Limited, a company registered in England and Wales. Copies of the parent's consolidated accounts may be obtained from Aardman Holdings Limited, Gas Ferry Road, Bristol, BS1 6UN.

The ultimate controlling party is Aardman Employee Ownership Trust.