

## WS Gresham House Equity Funds

Interim Unaudited Report and Financial Statements for the half year ended 30 June 2024



WS Gresham House UK Multi Cap Income Fund

WS Gresham House UK Smaller Companies Fund



## AUTHORISED CORPORATE DIRECTOR ('ACD')

### WAYSTONE MANAGEMENT (UK) LIMITED

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(Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority)

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

#### **KPMG LLP**

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<sup>\*</sup> Non-Executive Directors of the ACD.

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### **ACD'S REPORT**

for the half year ended 30 June 2024

#### **Authorised Status**

WS Gresham House Equity Funds ('the Company') is an investment company with variable capital incorporated in England and Wales under registered number IC001084 and authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority ('FCA') with effect from 18 April 2017. The Company has an unlimited duration.

The Company is a UK UCITS and the base currency of the Company and each sub-fund is pounds sterling.

Shareholders are not liable for the debts of the Company. Shareholders are not liable to make any further payment to the Company after they have paid the price on purchase of the shares.

### ACD's Statement

## **Economic Uncertainty**

Whilst the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020 now seems a distant memory, Russia's incursion into Ukraine in February 2022 remains an unresolved conflict that has led to inflationary pressures globally. Add to this the Israel–Hamas conflict that commenced in October 2023, and we are faced with consequences in both the domestic and global economy. Significant increases in the prices of energy and commodities have reverberated around the world, leading to many countries experiencing inflation at levels not seen for many years. To curb the increase in inflation, many nations' central banks have been progressively increasing interest rates. In light of most economies heading in a downward trajectory, central banks have recently ended their aggressive monetary tightening and have projected loosening their monetary policies in the second half of 2024. Although the consequences of the geopolitical events remain unclear, economic data in June gave hope that a 'soft-landing' is attainable. Global economies have shown better resilience to the high-interest rate environment than expected with improving or steady manufacturing and services activity. The US job market started cooling and retail sales slowed more than forecasted but US inflation continued to ease and at a faster pace than expected in June, providing another dose of confidence for the US Federal Reserve officials that they can cut interest rates soon.

### Important Information

With effect from 1 February 2024, the following changes occurred within the WS Gresham House UK Smaller Companies Fund:

- The Annual Management Charge ('AMC') applied to the C Sterling Accumulation and C Sterling Income share classes reduced by 0.15%. The reduced AMC is 0.75%; and
- The Ongoing Charges Figure ('OCF') applied to the C Sterling Accumulation and C Sterling Income share classes reduced by 0.15%. The reduced OCF is 0.85%.

With effect from 28 June 2024, the registered office of the ACD has changed to 3rd Floor, Central Square, 29 Wellington Street, Leeds, United Kingdom, LS1 4DL.



## ACD'S REPORT continued

### Important Information continued

With effect from 8 July 2024, the C Euro Accumulation share classes closed in all of the Company's subfunds.

### **Cross Holdings**

No sub-funds had holdings in any other sub-fund of the Company at the end of the period.

### Securities Financing Transactions

The Company has the ability to utilise Securities Financing Transactions (being transactions such as lending or borrowing of securities, repurchase or reverse repurchase transactions, buy-sell back or sell-buy back transactions, or margin lending transactions). No such transactions have been undertaken in the period covered by this report.

### Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures ('TCFD')

In accordance with current Financial Conduct Authority rules, the ACD is required to publish its own TCFD report and that of each fund. The report can be found at TCFD Reporting (fundsolutions.net/tcfd-reporting) and the report of the sub-funds of the Company can be found at https://www.fundsolutions.net/uk/gresham-house-asset-management-limited/ws-gresham-house-equity-funds/.

Prior to accessing the report of the sub-funds of the Company there is a link to the 'TCFD Reporting Guide' which provides an explanation of the TCFD report.

#### WAYSTONE MANAGEMENT (UK) LIMITED

ACD of WS Gresham House Equity Funds 29 August 2024



## **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook as issued and amended by the Financial Conduct Authority.

K.J. MIDL

WAYSTONE MANAGEMENT (UK) LIMITED ACD of WS Gresham House Equity Funds 29 August 2024



## WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK MULTI CAP INCOME FUND ACD'S REPORT

for the half year ended 30 June 2024

### Important Information

Please refer to the Important Information section on pages 3 and 4.

### Investment Objective and Policy

The investment objective of WS Gresham House UK Multi Cap Income Fund ('the Fund') is to achieve income with the potential for capital growth, over any five year period, after all costs and charges have been taken.

Capital invested is at risk and there is no guarantee the objective will be achieved over any time period.

The investment policy of the Fund is to invest directly at least 60% of the scheme property by value in the shares of small and medium sized companies that:

- (i) are incorporated, or domiciled in the UK;
- (ii) are listed or traded in the UK; and
- (iii) have a market capitalisation no greater than the smallest market constituent of the FTSE 100 Index.

The Fund may also invest directly and/or indirectly, up to 30% of the scheme property by value in the shares of large sized (have a market capitalisation greater than the smallest market constituent of the FTSE 100 Index) UK companies, investment and non-investment grade (including non-rated) sterling denominated debt securities (such as corporate bonds, government and public securities), money market instruments, deposits and cash.

The Fund may also invest directly and/or indirectly up to 10% of the scheme property by value in the shares of non-UK companies and unlisted companies.

As part of the equities exposure the Fund may also invest in Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs).

Investments in collective investment schemes is limited to 10% of the scheme property by value.

The Fund can invest across different industry sectors without limitation.

The Fund may gain exposure to these assets directly by investing in securities issued by companies and governments, and indirectly by investing in other transferable securities and collective investment schemes (open and closed ended). Indirect investments may include instruments managed or advised by the ACD or the Investment Manager or their associates.

The Fund may use derivatives for efficient portfolio management purposes.

The investment amounts referenced above will not apply under extraordinary market conditions. Examples of extraordinary market conditions include economic, political unrest or instability, world events leading to market instability, closure of a relevant market(s), or any events which give rise to high downside risk. During such periods, the Fund may temporarily invest up to 100% of its total assets in cash and cash equivalents.



## WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK MULTI CAP INCOME FUND ACD'S REPORT continued

### Benchmark

The Fund's comparator benchmark is the IA UK Equity Income sector.

The Fund's performance may be compared against the IA UK Equity Income sector. The ACD believes that this is an appropriate comparator benchmark for the Fund given the investment objective and policy of the Fund. Many funds sold in the UK are grouped into sectors by the Investment Association (the trade body that represents UK investment managers), to help investors to compare funds with broadly similar characteristics. The comparator benchmark has been selected as the ACD considers it assists investors in evaluating the Fund's performance against the performance of other funds invested in similar assets. The Fund is not constrained by the comparator benchmark and may take positions that differ significantly from the comparator benchmark.

## WAYSTONE MANAGEMENT (UK) LIMITED ACD of WS Gresham House UK Multi Cap Income Fund 29 August 2024



# WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK MULTI CAP INCOME FUND ACD'S REPORT continued INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

for the half year ended 30 June 2024

### Investment Strategy

The Fund was launched on 30 June 2017 with a policy of investing primarily in small and mid-cap companies, as well as holding large cap companies, and an objective of delivering a return of income with potential for capital growth. These companies are predominantly UK listed equities. In annual terms the Fund currently is targeting a high single digit percentage total return.

The Fund's investment strategy seeks to leverage the Manager's core expertise in investing in small and mid-sized UK businesses within its key sectors (consumer, technology, media and telecom, business services and healthcare & education), and selectively into larger cap companies that fit the Manager's quality criteria, avoiding excessive cyclical exposure. The Fund focuses on areas of structural growth and sustainable income, seeking to find profitable, cash generative companies that offer attractive dividends and scope to grow, and employing a disciplined investment process to appraise potential investments. The Fund also looks to benefit from the wider Gresham House platform of research and investment professionals, and network of entrepreneurs, business leaders and industry specialists.

Fund composition aims to reflect the Manager's high conviction style, comprising a relatively concentrated portfolio of stocks with the potential to sustainably grow profits, cash flow and dividends over the longer term.

#### Overview

UK equity markets delivered a broadly positive performance in H1 2024, albeit larger and main market-listed companies outperformed their smaller and AIM-listed peers. While investment into listed equities in the UK increased during this period, inflows were predominantly directed towards North American, European, and global equity funds. In contrast, UK-focused equity funds shed a net £2.7bn over the period, marking 37 months of consecutive net outflows. More recently, we have observed green shoots of improving allocation towards UK equities, exemplified by the markedly lower rate of net outflows from UK-focused funds in June 2024. Indeed, renewed hopes of UK and US interest rate cuts in-line with Europe drove bond price appreciation and institutional reallocation from bonds into equities.

Through our trading activity in H1, we continued to see 'forced selling' of UK equities, reflecting the ongoing (albeit abating) outflows from this asset class. We believe this trend partly explains the current dislocation between trading multiples of UK smaller companies and private precedent transactions across a variety of sectors. Our recent management meetings with private equity firms suggest key drivers of elevated M&A activity remain intact: buyout firms have much excess capital to deploy and private-to-private dealmaking remains subdued due to high valuation expectations. Private equity pipelines have consequently turned to the UK public market with a bias towards smaller companies where prices are 'cheaper' still. On a next-twelvemonths price-to-earnings basis, UK equities trade at a c.35% discount to global equities, while UK small-cap stocks below £500m market cap trade at a further 25-40% discount to their larger domestic peers.<sup>2</sup> Equally,



## WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK MULTI CAP INCOME FUND ACD'S REPORT continued INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT continued

bid premia for UK smaller companies remain meaningfully above historic averages in specific cases despite the elevated cost of debt-funding private equity deals in the higher interest rate environment (Wincanton +104%, Spirent +86%, IDS +73% and Keywords Studios +69%).<sup>3</sup> All of this reflects the compelling valuation opportunity available to active stock-pickers of UK smaller companies.

More broadly, macroeconomic and geopolitical uncertainty persisted during H1, but we also saw reasons for cautious optimism. Importantly, UK inflation slowed to 2% in May: the lowest level for almost three years.<sup>4</sup> Accelerated real wage growth was reflected in the highest level of UK consumer confidence since mid-2021, with noticeably improved outlooks on personal finances and the wider economy. However, consumer propensity to make 'major purchases' remains materially below the 25-year average score and UK household saving rates are markedly higher than across other G7 economies, likely due to elevated mortgage costs and memory of recent economic trauma. While green shoots of improving sentiment have emerged, we are only selectively exposed to consumer trends with a focus on structural growth themes such as low-ticket experiential leisure, resilient customer offerings characterised by niche or hobbyist demand profiles, and strong competitive positions.

While we monitor macroeconomic and geopolitical trends, our portfolio construction seeks to mitigate external risks through a focus on high-quality, well-managed businesses with clear value creation strategies, long-term structural demand drivers, and durable competitive advantages, prioritising opportunities where key investment drivers are within the control of management teams and avoiding business models which are exposed to wider market factors.

A consistent investment philosophy, strong relationships with company management teams, and an extensive specialist network underpin our confidence that our portfolio companies will continue to grow earnings, generate cash, and pay sustainable and growing dividends throughout the cycle. As an indicator of portfolio quality and resilience, c.91% of company updates in the Fund have been in-line or positive relative to market expectations during the year-to-date.

### Movements in Net Asset Value

During the period the gross NAV of the Fund increased from £680.2m¹ to £852.9m¹,5, of which 91.6% was invested in UK equities – 76.0% in small and mid-cap and 15.6% in large cap. The increase in NAV was driven by an upwards revaluation of the portfolio of £28.3m, along with net inflows from shareholders amounting to £144.4m. The Fund delivered a positive return of  $4.9\%^2$  over the period (C Sterling Accumulation share class), compared to the IA UK Equity Income sector, which returned  $7.2\%^2$ .



## WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK MULTI CAP INCOME FUND ACD'S REPORT continued INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT continued

### Investment Activity

Investment activity was high during the period with inflows deployed into follow-on investments into a number of portfolio companies alongside three new investments, totaling  $\mathfrak{L}190.1$ m across both; the number of portfolio companies remained at 41.

In aggregate £39.2m was received from the proceeds of divestments, realising a positive aggregate return of 22.0%.

### **NEW INVESTMENTS**

Three new investments were made during the first half of 2024. Firstly, into Pets at Home, a specialist retailer of domestic pet food, accessories, and services, alongside an effectively franchised and higher margin veterinary offering. We believe that this business trades at an attractive valuation, benefits from structural demand drivers including growing pet ownership and elongated lifespans, and leverages a digital membership platform to drive repeat business and cross-sell. Secondly, into Hollywood Bowl Group, the UK's leading tenpin bowling operator and second largest player globally, which we believe is led by a high-quality and incentivised management team with a clear strategy to drive like-for-like growth, supported by a structural trend in consumer spend towards low-ticket experiential leisure. Thirdly, into Quilter, a vertically integrated financial services business providing wealth management, financial planning, and investment platform services to mass affluent and high net worth clients. The Manager believes the business is well-positioned to create shareholder value through its clear organic growth strategy and internal cost-out programmes, has competitive advantages due to its brand strength and diversified distribution model, and trades on an attractive entry valuation which is heavily discounted to precedent transaction multiples due to an FCA market probe where downside risks appear limited.

#### **FOLLOW-ON INVESTMENTS**

The Manager continues to monitor the portfolio with a network-driven, bottom-up risk review process, continually reassessing critical investment judgements in light of new information on fundamental business performance or broader market developments. Resultantly, additional capital was deployed into existing portfolio companies where the Manager has built further conviction in the investment case during the holding period. These follow-on investments represent opportunities to buy into attractive long-term earnings growth, cash generation, and sustainable income at attractive valuations.



## WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK MULTI CAP INCOME FUND ACD'S REPORT continued INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT continued

The Fund deployed £129.7m into 27 existing portfolio companies as follow-on investments during the period. Examples include **Schroders**, a leading global asset manager undergoing a positive shift in business mix towards higher margin, structurally growing areas in alternatives and UK wealth management; **Mears Group**, a maintenance service provider to the affordable housing sector in the UK. We believe that risk to market earnings expectations is weighted favourably to the upside given positive bidding momentum for new contracts and strong demand for accommodation services; and **Ricardo**, a global strategic, environmental, and engineering consultancy, which is undergoing a strategic transition to refocus on the higher growth, higher margin, and lower capital intensity parts of the business, where growth is underpinned by environmental structural tailwinds.

#### **DIVESTMENTS**

The Manager made two full exits during the period; from Ten Entertainment Group (+50.8%), a leading UK ten-pin bowling operator, following the completion of its takeover by Trive Capital, a US private equity investor; and from Smart Metering Systems (+27.3%), following another completed takeover by US private equity group, KKR. There was an additional 'exit' from Belvoir Group, however this holding was effectively rolled into another portfolio company, The Property Franchise Group, via a nil-premium all-share merger which completed in March 2024.6

Partial divestments were made selectively to take profit in portfolio companies whose shares had outperformed but whose valuations had become stretched, or in instances where the Manager judged there to be superior opportunities to redeploy capital within the portfolio or into new investments.

#### Investment Performance

The Fund achieved a return of 4.9%² (based on C Sterling Accumulation share class), ranking 67 out of 77 in the IA UK Equity Income Sector, partly reflecting the Fund's exposure towards relatively smaller companies which underperformed their larger cap peers during the period. We also highlight short-term share price weakness during the period driven by what the Manager considers to be transitory market headwinds across consumer-facing companies (B&M, Domino's, and Halfords), which have temporarily obscured attractive longer-term investment cases. We also note the improved relative performance versus peers post-periodend.

Key contributors to absolute performance during the period came from Intermediate Capital Group (+33.0%) following full-year results materially ahead of already upgraded market consensus, driven by strong fundraising and performance fees across structured and private equity as well as private debt products; XPS Pensions Group (+30.1%), following sequential upgrades to forecast earnings and strong full-year results underpinned by growing client demand and inflation indexation leading to double-digit growth across all divisions and margin expansion, alongside a recent 5% upgrade to the March 2025 consensus earnings



## WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK MULTI CAP INCOME FUND ACD'S REPORT continued INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT continued

per share forecast; and 3i Group (+28.0%), driven by continued strong performance in terms of like-for-like sales and EBITDA growth by major portfolio constituent and European discount store chain, Action, which is rolling out new stores at pace and drives a compelling customer value proposition through incremental supply-chain economies of scale.

Detractors during the period were **Argentex Group** (-68.9%), following a profit warning driven by higher than anticipated costs alongside a challenging market backdrop; **Halfords Group** (-29.6%), as challenging retail motoring and cycling markets created a negative operating gearing impact in the last financial year, however, the Manager remains confident in the long-term investment thesis, taking comfort from the encouraging performance of Halford's service, maintenance, and repair offering as well as management-led cost savings programmes; and **Mony Group** (-17.5%) following in-line annual results coupled with broker downgrades to long-term growth forecasts in the insurance segment driven by concerns around the competitive environment. Nevertheless, the Manager is confident the business is well positioned to deliver strong performance across its diversified end-market channels.<sup>7</sup>

#### Outlook

We saw green shoots of economic improvement in H1 and are cautiously optimistic that positive trends can continue into the remainder of 2024. UK CPI is now tracking the target inflation level, UK investors have priced in their expectations of two interest rate cuts by the Bank of England in H2, and we have already seen cuts by the European Central Bank.<sup>8</sup> Similarly, UK consumer confidence is at its highest level in almost three years, albeit consumption remains subdued as shown by recent household saving data. However, with real wages growing, the short-term prospect of unwinding mortgage costs, and the relatively 'de-leveraged' UK household compared to 2008/09,<sup>9</sup> the economic environment looks potentially more supportive of rising consumption than at any point over the last couple of years.

Turning to UK equity markets and interest rates, the prospect of falling bond yields and price appreciation in H2 may create a favourable 'denominator effect' for UK equity fund flows whereby asset allocators re-weight portfolios towards equities to meet their target asset class exposures. The ensuing liquidity injection into UK funds, and UK smaller companies, could alleviate the downward share price pressure of the last two years caused by meeting redemptions. UK smaller company valuations may then bridge the wide gap relative to their larger UK and international peers, as well as precedent M&A transactions. We see these conditions as supportive of the case for a re-rating of UK smaller companies.

On a similarly positive note, we have seen a growing number of 'early look' and formal pre-IPO meetings during late H1 and into early H2. While equity capital market activity during 2024 has primarily focused on existing listed businesses, notable larger UK IPOs of Raspberry Pi and Aoti took place during H1, along with a



## WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK MULTI CAP INCOME FUND ACD'S REPORT continued INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT continued

smaller IPO of AI-focused IntelliAM in early July. Together with the prospect of improving economic conditions and the possibility of rising UK stock-market valuations, investor and corporate confidence will have grown by observing strengthening post-deal share prices in each instance. We therefore expect further IPO activity to present new opportunities into H2 2024.

Note: Investments carry risks. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. Investors may not get back the amount invested.

GRESHAM HOUSE ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED Investment Manager 19 July 2024

<sup>9</sup> Simon French, Panmure Liberum, "What does the UK economic inheritance look like?", July 2024.



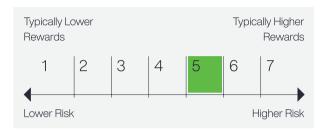
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Calastone data.

<sup>Berenberg and Bloomberg data as of 30 June 2024.
Peel Hunt, "UK M&A - Further Acceleration".
Office for National Statistics, "Consumer price inflation, UK: May 2024", June 2024.
Based on 12 pm Valuation Point.</sup> 

<sup>©</sup> Cumulative cash-on-cash return by investment tranche (net proceeds divided by historic cost as a percentage).

<sup>7</sup> Bloomberg, contributors and detractors using TSR. 8 Bloomberg, WIRP function.

### Risk and Reward Profile



This indicator shows how much a fund has risen and fallen in the past, and therefore how much a fund's returns have varied. It is a measure of a fund's volatility. The higher a fund's past volatility the higher the number on the scale and the greater the risk that investors in that fund may have made losses as well as gains.

The Fund has been classed as 5 because its volatility has been measured as above average.

This indicator is based on historical data and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of this Fund.

The risk and reward profile shown is not guaranteed to remain the same and may shift over time. The lowest number on the scale does not mean that a fund is risk free.

Counterparty Risk: The failure of a firm involved in a transaction with the Fund or providing services to the Fund may expose the Fund to financial loss.

Change in Interest Rate Risk: A rise in interest rates generally causes bond prices to fall.

Credit Risk: The value of a bond may be affected by its credit rating, the lower the rating the higher the risk of the issuer not paying interest or repaying the loan.

Liquidity Risk: Smaller companies' securities are often traded less frequently than those of larger companies which means they may be more difficult to buy and sell. Their prices may also be subject to short term swings (both up and down) in their value.

Concentration Risk: The Fund may invest in stocks with a particular industry, sector or geographical focus. This means that the performance of a single industry, sector or geographical region within the Fund has a greater effect (loss or gain) on the value of the Fund.

For more information about the Fund's risks please see the Risk Factors section of the Prospectus which is available at www.waystone.com



## Comparative Tables

Information for 30 June 2024 relates to the 6 month period ending 30 June 2024. The operating charges relate to the expenses incurred on an ex post basis over the 6 month period ending 30 June 2024, expressed as an annualised percentage of the average net asset value.

### F STERLING ACCUMULATION SHARES

TOTELLING ACCOUNCEASTION CHANGE	30.06.24	31.12.23	31.12.22	31.12.21
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	pence per share	pence per share	pence per share	pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	173.84	154.19	165.62	130.84
Return before operating charges*	8.61	20.69	(10.39)	35.84
Operating charges	(0.56)	(1.04)	(1.04)	(1.06)
Return after operating charges	8.05	19.65	(11.43)	34.78
Distributions	(3.77)	(7.15)	(6.03)	(6.37)
Retained distributions on				
accumulation shares	3.77	7.15	6.03	6.37
Closing net asset value per share	181.89	173.84	154.19	165.62
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.25	0.41	0.51	0.73
PERFORMANCE				
Return after charges	4.63%	12.74%	(6.90)%	26.58%
OTHER INFORMATION				
Closing net asset value (£'000)	113,966	106,028	59,732	51,716
Closing number of shares	62,656,338	60,991,585	38,740,550	31,224,795
Operating charges	0.64%	0.65%	0.67%	0.69%
Direct transaction costs	0.14%	0.25%	0.33%	0.47%
PRICES				
Highest share price	185.33	174.77	168.49	166.98
Lowest share price	166.05	152.50	141.48	132.20



## Comparative Tables continued

	24.42.22	0.100	0.1.0.01
30.06.24 pence per share	31.12.23 pence per share	31.12.22 pence per share	31.12.21 pence per share
134.11	124.34	138.96	114.32
6.60	16.27	(8.78)	31.04
(0.43)	(0.83)	(0.86)	(0.92)
6.17	15.44	(9.64)	30.12
(2.90)	(5.67)	(4.98)	(5.48)
137.38	134.11	124.34	138.96
0.19	0.32	0.42	0.63
4.60%	12.42%	(6.94)%	26.35%
307,100	260,464	199,573	80,059
223,547,062	194,211,706	160,506,746	57,612,667
0.64%	0.65%	0.67%	0.70%
0.14%	0.25%	0.33%	0.47%
141.85	136.10	141.39	142.53
128.15	118.76	115.10	115.53
	134.11 6.60 (0.43) 6.17 (2.90) 137.38 0.19 4.60% 307,100 223,547,062 0.64% 0.14%	pence per share         pence per share           134.11         124.34           6.60         16.27           (0.43)         (0.83)           6.17         15.44           (2.90)         (5.67)           137.38         134.11           0.19         0.32           4.60%         12.42%           307,100         260,464           223,547,062         194,211,706           0.64%         0.65%           0.14%         0.25%           141.85         136.10	pence per share         pence per share         pence per share           134.11         124.34         138.96           6.60         16.27         (8.78)           (0.43)         (0.83)         (0.86)           6.17         15.44         (9.64)           (2.90)         (5.67)         (4.98)           137.38         134.11         124.34           0.19         0.32         0.42           4.60%         12.42%         (6.94)%           223,547,062         194,211,706         160,506,746           0.64%         0.65%         0.67%           0.14%         0.25%         0.33%           141.85         136.10         141.39



## Comparative Tables continued

C STERLING ACCUMULATION SHARES

C STERLING ACCUMULATION SHARES				
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	30.06.24 pence per share	31.12.23 pence per share	31.12.22 pence per share	31.12.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	171.71	152.52	164.10	129.82
Return before operating charges*	8.49	20.46	(10.32)	35.57
Operating charges	(0.68)	(1.27)	(1.26)	(1.29)
Return after operating charges	7.81	19.19	(11.58)	34.28
Distributions	(3.73)	(7.07)	(5.96)	(6.31)
Retained distributions on				
accumulation shares	3.73	7.07	5.96	6.31
Closing net asset value per share	179.52	171.71	152.52	164.10
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.25	0.40	0.50	0.73
PERFORMANCE				
Return after charges	4.55%	12.58%	(7.06)%	26.41%
OTHER INFORMATION				
Closing net asset value (£'000)	214,336	147,493	75,025	45,004
Closing number of shares	119,396,267	85,897,684	49,189,317	27,425,514
Operating charges	0.79%	0.80%	0.82%	0.85%
Direct transaction costs	0.14%	0.25%	0.33%	0.47%
PRICES				
Highest share price	182.93	172.63	166.94	165.44
Lowest share price	163.99	150.67	140.00	131.17



## Comparative Tables continued

CCTEDI	ING INCOME	CHAREC
COLERL	ING INCOME	SHARES

C STERLING INCOME SHARES	00.00.04	04.40.00	01.10.00	04.40.04
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	30.06.24 pence per share	31.12.23 pence per share	31.12.22 pence per share	31.12.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	132.57	123.09	137.77	113.51
Return before operating charges*	6.51	16.10	(8.70)	30.81
Operating charges	(0.53)	(1.01)	(1.04)	(1.11)
Return after operating charges	5.98	15.09	(9.74)	29.70
Distributions	(2.86)	(5.61)	(4.94)	(5.44)
Closing net asset value per share	135.69	132.57	123.09	137.77
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.19	0.32	0.42	0.63
PERFORMANCE				
Return after charges	4.51%	12.26%	(7.07)%	26.17%
OTHER INFORMATION				
Closing net asset value (£'000)	94,009	93,647	47,994	25,998
Closing number of shares	69,281,960	70,640,923	38,991,663	18,870,892
Operating charges	0.79%	0.80%	0.82%	0.85%
Direct transaction costs	0.14%	0.25%	0.33%	0.47%
PRICES				
Highest share price	140.13	134.53	140.17	141.38
Lowest share price	126.66	117.42	113.97	114.70



## Comparative Tables continued

C EURO ACCUMULATION SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	30.06.24 € per share	31.12.23 € per share	31.12.22¹ € per share
Opening net asset value per share	1.0705	0.9235	1.0000
Return before operating charges*	0.0794	0.1544	(0.0703)
Operating charges	(0.0041)	(0.0074)	(0.0062)
Return after operating charges	0.0753	0.1470	(0.0765)
Distributions	(2.3680)	(0.0439)	(0.0334)
Retained distributions on accumulation shares Closing net asset value per share * after direct transaction costs of:	2.3680 1.1458 0.0016	0.0439 1.0705 0.2484	0.0334 0.9235 0.2700
PERFORMANCE			
Return after charges	6.85%	15.92%	(7.65)%
OTHER INFORMATION			
Closing net asset value (£'000)	-	_	-
Closing number of shares	250	250	250
Operating charges	0.75%	0.75%	$0.75\%^{2}$
Direct transaction costs	0.14%	0.25%	0.33%2
PRICES			
Highest share price	1.1654	1.0730	1.0374
Lowest share price	1.0367	0.9283	0.8553



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> From 21 February 2022. <sup>2</sup> Annualised figure due to share class launched less than 1 year.

## Comparative Tables continued

A STERLING ACCUMULATION SHARES

	30.06.24	31.12.231
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	pence per share	pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	111.26	100.00
Return before operating charges*	5.51	11.42
Operating charges	(0.36)	(0.16)
Return after operating charges	5.15	11.26
Distributions	(2.41)	(1.09)
Retained distributions on		
accumulation shares	2.41	1.09
Closing net asset value per share	116.41	111.26
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.16	(0.06)
PERFORMANCE		
Return after charges	4.63%	11.26%
OTHER INFORMATION		
Closing net asset value (£'000)	109,903	64,724
Closing number of shares	94,409,336	58,171,664
Operating charges	0.64%	0.64%2
Direct transaction costs	0.14%	0.25%2
PRICES		
Highest share price	118.61	111.86
Lowest share price	106.28	97.61



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> From 1 June 2023. <sup>2</sup> Annualised figure due to share class launched less than 1 year.

## Comparative Tables continued

A STERLING INCOME SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	30.06.24 pence per share	31.12.23 <sup>1</sup> pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	110.17	100.00
Return before operating charges*	5.42	11.42
Operating charges	(0.35)	(0.16)
Return after operating charges	5.07	11.26
Distributions	(2.38)	(1.09)
Closing net asset value per share	112.86	110.17
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.16	(0.06)
PERFORMANCE		
Return after charges	4.60%	11.26%
OTHER INFORMATION		
Closing net asset value (£'000)	1,822	1,135
Closing number of shares	1,614,510	1,030,448
Operating charges	0.64%	0.64%2
Direct transaction costs	0.14%	0.25%2
PRICES		
Highest share price	116.53	111.86
Lowest share price	105.28	97.62



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> From 1 June 2023. <sup>2</sup> Annualised figure due to share class launched less than 1 year.

## Distributions

Share Class	First Interim 31.03.24 pence/cents per share	Second Interim 30.06.24 pence/cents per share
F Sterling Accumulation	1.3661	2.4077
F Sterling Income	1.0547	1.8431
C Sterling Accumulation	1.3485	2.3768
C Sterling Income	1.0414	1.8209
C Euro Accumulation	0.8600	1.5080
A Sterling Accumulation	0.8741	1.5408
A Sterling Income	0.8665	1.5138

## Fund Performance to 30 June 2024 - Cumulative (%)

	6 months	1 year	3 years	5 years
WS Gresham House UK Multi Cap				
Income Fund	4.89	14.58	16.47	54.30
IA UK Equity Income sector <sup>1</sup>	7.21	14.60	18.54	28.27

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Source: Morningstar Direct.

The performance of the Fund is based on the published price per C Sterling Accumulation share which includes reinvested income.

The performance of the Fund disclosed in the above table may differ from the 'Return after charges' disclosed in the Comparative Table due to above performance being calculated on the latest published price prior to the period end, rather than the period end return after operating charges.

#### **RISK WARNING**

An investment in an open-ended investment company should be regarded as a medium to long term investment. Investors should be aware that the price of shares and the income from them can fall as well as rise and investors may not receive back the full amount invested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. Investments denominated in currencies other than the base currency are subject to fluctuation in exchange rates, which can be favourable or unfavourable.



# WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK MULTI CAP INCOME FUND ACD'S REPORT continued PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	30.06.24
	UNITED KINGDOM - 91.19% (31.12.23 - 88.98%)		
	TECHNOLOGY - 3.55% (31.12.23 - 3.72%)		
	SOFTWARE AND COMPUTER SERVICES - 3.55% (31.12.23 - 3.72%)		
12,200,163	Mony	27,084	3.22
2,393,304	Vianet <sup>1</sup>	2,752	0.33
	TOTAL TECHNOLOGY	29,836	3.55
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS - 3.11% (31.12.23 - 2.95%)		
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS - 3.11% (31.12.23 - 2.95%)		
1,481,136	Telecom Plus	26,127	3.11
	TOTAL TELECOMMUNICATION	26,127	3.11
	HEALTH CARE - 6.26% (31.12.23 - 7.73%)		
	PHARMACEUTICALS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY - 6.26% (31.12.23 - 7.73%)		
363,626	Bioventix <sup>1</sup>	15,636	1.86
35,355,884	EKF Diagnostics <sup>1</sup>	9,546	1.13
1,796,022	GSK	27,470	3.27
	TOTAL HEALTH CARE	52,652	6.26
	FINANCIALS - 40.42% (31.12.23 - 37.02%)		
	FINANCE AND CREDIT SERVICES - 3.83% (31.12.23 - 4.00%)		
1,434,903	Intermediate Capital	31,281	3.72
3,230,166	Orchard Funding <sup>1</sup>	937	0.11
	-	32,218	3.83



# WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK MULTI CAP INCOME FUND ACD'S REPORT continued PORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	30.06.24 %
	INVESTMENT BANKING AND BROKERAGE		
	SERVICES - 27.69% (31.12.23 - 24.44%)		
875,303	3i <sup>2</sup>	26,837	3.19
10,237,698	Argentex <sup>1</sup>	2,867	0.34
892,330	Brooks MacDonald <sup>1</sup>	17,401	2.07
6,680,184	IntegraFin	23,180	2.75
2,600,083	Mattioli Woods <sup>1</sup>	20,437	2.43
7,529,822	Peel Hunt <sup>1</sup>	9,563	1.14
17,260,000	Quilter	20,729	2.46
7,821,345	Schroders	28,438	3.38
3,089,638	Tatton Asset Management <sup>1</sup>	20,762	2.47
11,506,878	TP ICAP	22,991	2.73
13,348,303	XPS Pensions	39,778	4.73
		232,983	27.69
	CLOSED END INVESTMENTS – 4.22%		
	(31.12.23 – 3.10%)		
26,206,781	Gresham House Energy Storage <sup>1,2,3</sup>	18,423	2.20
16,585,952	Hipgnosis Songs <sup>2</sup>	16,984	2.02
		35,407	4.22
	LIFE INSURANCE – 2.03% (31.12.23 – 2.59%)		
3,269,166	Phoenix	17,049	2.03
	NON-LIFE INSURANCE - 2.65% (31.12.23 - 2.89%)		
1/ 207 226	Sabre Insurance	00 071	2.65
14,827,336	TOTAL FINANCIALS	<u>22,271</u> 339,928	40.42
	TOTAL TINANUIALS		40.42



# WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK MULTI CAP INCOME FUND ACD'S REPORT continued PORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	30.06.24
	REAL ESTATE - 3.16% (31.12.23 - 2.98%)		
6,116,354	REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT AND SERVICES DEVELOPMENT – 3.16% (31.12.23 – 2.98%) Property Franchise <sup>1</sup> TOTAL REAL ESTATE	26,606 26,606	3.16
	CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY - 15.78% (31.12.23 - 15.26%)		
16,741,486	HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND HOME CONSTRUCTION - 0.89% (31.12.23 - 1.21%) Watkin Jones <sup>1</sup>	7,517	0.89
	MEDIA - 2.21% (31.12.23 - 2.08%)		
2,994,235	Bloomsbury Publishing	18,564	2.21
	RETAILERS - 7.52% (31.12.23 - 6.10%)		
5,262,724	B&M European Value Retail	23,009	2.73
14,377,777	Halfords	20,186	2.40
6,795,427	Pets at Home	20,074	2.39
		63,269	7.52
	TRAVEL AND LEISURE - 5.16% (31.12.23 - 5.87%)		
7,895,335	Domino's Pizza	24,223	2.88
6,265,592	Hollywood Bowl	19,141	2.28
		43,364	5.16
	TOTAL CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	132,714	15.78



## WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK MULTI CAP INCOME FUND ACD'S REPORT continued PORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	30.06.24 %
	CONSUMER STAPLES - 2.40% (31.12.23 - 2.03%)		
10 71 1 505	FOOD PRODUCERS – 2.40% (31.12.23 – 2.03%)	00.405	0.40
12,714,505	Premier Foods	20,165	2.40
	TOTAL CONSUMER STAPLES	20,165	2.40
	INDUSTRIALS - 15.95% (31.12.23 - 16.60%)		
	CONSTRUCTION & MATERIALS - 2.54% (31.12.23 - 2.59%)		
5,843,741	Balfour Beatty	21,330	2.54
	INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT SERVICES - 13.41% (31.12.23 - 14.01%)		
6,030,443	Alpha Financial Markets Consulting <sup>1</sup>	29,911	3.56
15,293,303	FRP Advisory <sup>1</sup>	18,123	2.15
4,306,596	Mears	15,784	1.88
5,949,760	Ricardo	28,975	3.44
10,670,879	RWS Holdings <sup>1</sup>	20,040	2.38
		112,833	13.41
	TOTAL INDUSTRIALS	134,163	15.95
	ENERGY - 0.56% (31.12.23 - 0.69%)		
	ALTERNATIVE ENERGY - 0.56% (31.12.23 - 0.69%)		
6,445,494	Inspired <sup>1</sup>	4,705	0.56
	TOTAL ENERGY	4,705	0.56
	TOTAL UNITED KINGDOM	766,896	91.19
0.700.555	BERMUDA - 0.00% (31.12.23 - 0.21%)	_	
9,780,592	R&Q Insurance <sup>1</sup>	7	



# WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK MULTI CAP INCOME FUND ACD'S REPORT continued PORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued

as at 30 June 2024

		Value	30.06.24
Holding	Portfolio of Investments	£'000	%
	GUERNSEY - 0.96% (31.12.23 - 1.30%)		
26,515,221	Duke Royalty <sup>1</sup>	8,087	0.96
	Portfolio of investments	774,990	92.15
	Net other assets	66,146	7.85
	Net assets	841,136	100.00

The investments are ordinary shares listed on a regulated market unless stated otherwise.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Quoted on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Closed end fund.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Related party holding.

## WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK MULTI CAP INCOME FUND ACD'S REPORT continued

## SUMMARY OF MATERIAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES

for the half year ended 30 June 2024

Total purchases for the half year £'000	188,942	Total sales for the half year £'000	47,790
Major purchases	Cost £'000	Sales	Proceeds £'000
Hollywood Bowl	20,917	Smart Metering Systems	22,844
Quilter	19,915	Ten Entertainment	21,021
Pets at Home	19,572	Intermediate Capital	2,421
Schroders	12,444	3i	1,497
Mears	10,942	R&Q Insurance	7
Gresham House Energy Storage	10,584		
Ricardo	9,945		
Halfords	9,686		
Moneysupermarket.com	9,646		
Domino's Pizza	8,462		

The summary of material portfolio changes represents the 10 largest purchases and all of the sales during the half year.



## WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK MULTI CAP INCOME FUND INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

for the half year ended 30 June 2024

£'000	30.06.24 £'000	£'000	30.06.23 £'000
	24,845		3,767
16,701		9,091	
(2,610)		(1,445)	
14,091		7,646	
(202)		(123)	
	13,889		7,523
	38,734		11,290
	(16,499)		(8,968)
	22 235		2,322
	16,701 (2,610) 14,091	£'000 £'000  24,845  16,701 (2,610) 14,091 (202)  13,889 38,734	£'000     £'000       24,845       16,701     9,091       (2,610)     (1,445)       14,091     7,646       (202)     (123)       13,889       38,734       (16,499)

## STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS for the half year ended 30 June 2024

	£'000	30.06.24 £'000	£'000	30.06.23 £'000
Opening net assets attributable				
to shareholders		673,491		382,324
Amounts receivable on				
issue of shares	193,442		71,410	
Amounts payable on				
redemption of shares	(56,776)		(20,223)	
		136,666		51,187
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders				
from investment activities		22,235		2,322
Retained distributions on				
Accumulation shares		8,744		3,321
Closing net assets attributable				
to shareholders		841,136		439,154

The above statement shows the comparative closing net assets at 30 June 2023 whereas the current accounting period commenced 1 January 2024.



# WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK MULTI CAP INCOME FUND INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) continued BALANCE SHEET

	30.06.24 £'000	31.12.23 £'000
ASSETS		
Findonia		
Fixed assets		
Investments	774,990	609,470
Command		
Current assets		
Debtors	7,434	3,290
Cash and bank balances	71,752	73,718
Total assets	854,176	686,478
LIABILITIES		
Cyaditaya		
Creditors	/	/
Distribution payable	(5,406)	(3,343)
Other creditors	(7,634)	(9,644)
Total liabilities	(13,040)	(12,987)
Net assets attributable to shareholders	841,136	673,491



## WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK MULTI CAP INCOME FUND INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) continued NOTES TO THE INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the half year ended 30 June 2024

### Accounting Policies

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 and are described in those annual financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of investments and in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice ('SORP') for Financial Statements of UK Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Association ('IA') in May 2014, as amended.

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. The ACD has made an assessment of the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, and is satisfied it has the resources to continue in business for the foreseeable future and is not aware of any material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt on this assessment. This assessment is made as at the date of issue of these financial statements, covering the subsequent 12 months, and considers liquidity, declines in global capital markets, known redemption levels, expense projections and key service provider's operational resilience. The ACD also considered the Fund's continued ability to meet ongoing costs, and is satisfied it has the resources to meet these costs and to continue in business.



## WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK SMALLER COMPANIES FUND ACD'S REPORT

for the half year ended 30 June 2024

## Important Information

Please refer to the Important Information section on pages 3 and 4.

### Investment Objective and Policy

The WS Gresham House UK Smaller Companies Fund ('the Fund') aims to provide capital growth over the long term (in excess of 5 years).

The Fund will directly invest at least 70% of its assets in shares of smaller-sized UK companies. These are listed companies with a market capitalisation within the lowest 10% of the listed UK equities markets that are either domiciled, incorporated or have a significant portion of their business (which will be considered by reference to revenue, profits and/or assets depending on the nature of the business) in the UK.

The Fund may also invest in shares of medium and large sized UK companies, unlisted companies, collective investment schemes (which may include other funds managed by the ACD, funds to which the Investment Manager provides investment management services and associates of the ACD and Investment Manager), warrants, money market instruments, deposits, cash, or near cash.

Derivatives and forward transactions may be used for Efficient Portfolio Management purposes.

The investment policy referenced above will not apply under extraordinary market conditions, in which circumstances the Fund may invest in asset classes other than those in which it normally invests in order to mitigate its exposure to market risk. Examples of extraordinary market conditions include economic, political unrest or instability, world events leading to market instability, closure of a relevant market(s), or any events which give rise to high downside risk. During such periods, the Fund may temporarily invest up to 100% of its total assets in cash, deposits, treasury bills, government bonds or short-term money market instruments, or have substantial holdings in cash and cash equivalents.



## WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK SMALLER COMPANIES FUND ACD'S REPORT continued

### Benchmark

The Fund's comparator benchmark is the IA UK Smaller Companies sector.

The Fund's performance may be compared against the IA UK Smaller Companies sector. The ACD believes that this is an appropriate comparator benchmark for the Fund given the investment objective and policy of the Fund. Many funds sold in the UK are grouped into sectors by the Investment Association (the trade body that represents UK investment managers), to help investors to compare funds with broadly similar characteristics. The comparator benchmark has been selected as the ACD considers it assists investors in evaluating the Fund's performance against the performance of other funds invested in similar assets. The Fund is not constrained by the comparator benchmark and may take positions that differ significantly from the comparator benchmark.

## WAYSTONE MANAGEMENT (UK) LIMITED ACD of WS Gresham House LIK Smaller Con

ACD of WS Gresham House UK Smaller Companies Fund 29 August 2024



# WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK SMALLER COMPANIES FUND ACD'S REPORT continued INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

for the half year ended 30 June 2024

#### Investment Strategy

The Fund was launched on 1 February 2019 with a focus on selecting high conviction, niche growth companies to back for the prospect of long-term capital growth.

The Manager seeks to avoid excessive cyclical exposure and early-stage risk and instead focuses on areas of structural growth and segments where its sector expertise and private equity approach, alongside proprietary fundamental research, can uncover stocks that may be below the radar of many investors due to their size and limited research coverage.

Fund composition aims to reflect the Manager's high conviction style, comprising a relatively concentrated portfolio of stocks with the potential to sustainably grow profits and cash flows over the longer term.

#### Overview

UK equity markets delivered a broadly positive performance in H1 2024, albeit larger and main market-listed companies outperformed their smaller and AlM-listed peers. While investment into listed equities in the UK increased during this period, inflows were predominantly directed towards North American, European, and global equity funds. In contrast, UK-focused equity funds shed a net  $\mathfrak{L}2.7$ bn over the period, marking 37 months of consecutive net outflows. More recently, we have observed green shoots of improving allocation towards UK equities, exemplified by the markedly lower rate of net outflows from UK-focused funds in June 2024. Indeed, renewed hopes of UK and US interest rate cuts in-line with Europe drove bond price appreciation and institutional reallocation from bonds into equities.

Through our investing activity in H1, we continued to see 'forced selling' of UK equities, reflecting the ongoing (albeit abating) outflows from this asset class. We believe this trend partly explains the current dislocation between trading multiples of UK smaller companies and private precedent transactions across a variety of sectors. Our recent management meetings with private equity firms suggest key drivers of elevated M&A activity remain intact: buyout firms have much excess capital to deploy and private-to-private dealmaking remains subdued due to high valuation expectations. Private equity pipelines have consequently turned to the UK public market with a bias towards smaller companies where prices are 'cheaper' still. On a next-twelve-months price-to-earnings basis, UK equities trade at a c.35% discount to global equities, while UK small-cap stocks below £500m market cap trade at a further 25-40% discount to their larger domestic peers.² Equally, bid premia for UK smaller companies remain meaningfully above historic averages in specific cases despite the elevated cost of debt-funding private equity deals in the higher interest rate environment (Wincanton +104%, Spirent +86%, IDS +73% and Keywords Studios +69%).³ All of this reflects the compelling valuation opportunity available to active stock-pickers of UK smaller companies.



# WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK SMALLER COMPANIES FUND ACD'S REPORT continued INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT continued

More broadly, macroeconomic and geopolitical uncertainty persisted during H1, but we also saw reasons for cautious optimism. Importantly, UK inflation slowed to 2% in May: the lowest level for almost three years.<sup>4</sup> Accelerated real wage growth was reflected in the highest level of UK consumer confidence since mid-2021, with noticeably improved outlooks on personal finances and the wider economy. However, consumer propensity to make 'major purchases' remains materially below the 25-year average score and UK household saving rates are markedly higher than across other G7 economies, likely due to elevated mortgage costs and memory of recent economic trauma. While greenshoots of improving sentiment have emerged, we are only selectively exposed to consumer trends with a focus on structural growth themes such as low-ticket experiential leisure, resilient customer offerings characterised by niche or hobbyist demand profiles, and strong competitive positions.

While we monitor macroeconomic and geopolitical trends, our portfolio construction seeks to mitigate external risks through a focus on high-quality, well-managed businesses with clear value creation strategies, long-term structural demand drivers, and durable competitive advantages, prioritising opportunities where key investment drivers are within the control of management teams and avoiding business models which are exposed to wider market factors.

A consistent investment philosophy, strong relationships with company management teams, and an extensive specialist network underpin our confidence that our portfolio companies will continue to grow earnings and generate cash throughout the cycle. As an indicator of portfolio quality and resilience, c.96% of company updates in the Fund have been in-line or positive relative to market expectations during the year-to-date.

#### Movements in Net Asset Value

As of 30 June 2024, the gross NAV of the Fund was £184.0 $\text{m}^5$ , of which 93.9% was invested in UK equities. This compared to a NAV of £118.6m at the beginning of the period. The increase in NAV was primarily due to net inflows from shareholders amounting to £55.1m, supplemented by a positive revaluation of the portfolio of £10.3m. The Fund generated a capital return of positive 8.4% $^2$  over the period (based on C Sterling Accumulation share class) compared to the IA UK Smaller Companies sector which returned a positive 8.7%.

#### Investment Activity

Investment activity was material during the period with the team deploying a total of £67.8m, while the number of portfolio companies increased from 40 at the beginning of the period to 42 at the end of the period (5 full exits and 7 new investments including Young's non-voting shares). The majority of the Fund's holdings are in companies where the Manager has extensive knowledge and experience built up over many years.

In aggregate £13.8m was received from the proceeds of divestments, realising an aggregate negative return of 7.4%.



# WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK SMALLER COMPANIES FUND ACD'S REPORT continued INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT continued

#### **NEW INVESTMENTS**

6 new investments were made during the first half of 2024, into a diverse range of businesses with strong fundamentals trading at attractive valuations. These included: CVS Group, an integrated veterinary services business which the Manager believes benefits from structural growth tailwinds, alongside internal levers to drive margin expansion, which is trading at an attractive valuation due to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) initiating a review of the sector, the outcome of which we do not expect to materially impact the business value over the long term; Hollywood Bowl Group, the UK's leading tenpin bowling operator and second largest player globally, which we believe is led by a high-quality and incentivised management team with a clear strategy to drive like-for-like growth, supported by a structural trend in consumer spend towards low-ticket experiential leisure; Hostelworld Group, the market-leader in the online hostelling travel segment, which has a highly capable management team that has defined a clear organic growth strategy focused on its unique social platform, which underpins improved customers' economics and will help to drive operational leverage; Young & Co's Brewery, a quality growth compounder with a premium and well-invested primarily freehold pub estate whose entrepreneurial managers are financially incentivised to drive increased site profitability and optimise utilisation, driving compelling LFL growth. The Manager believes there is upside potential to forecasts through synergies following the recent acquisition of City Pub Group; Fintel Plc, a provider of tech-enabled services to the UK IFA sector. The Manager is confident that an increasing regulatory burden on UK IFAs and a shift to outsourcing can continue to drive growth, alongside adjacent services to financial product manufacturers; and Raspberry PI, a provider of cost-effective single board computers and compute modules into industrial and engineering sectors. Raspberry PI completed its LSE IPO in June 2024, and its strong post-IPO performance bodes well for investor sentiment to deploy capital into UK IPOs.

#### **FOLLOW-ON INVESTMENTS**

The Manager continues to monitor the portfolio with a network-driven, bottom-up risk review process, continually reassessing critical investment judgements in light of new information on fundamental business performance or broader market developments. Resultantly, additional capital was deployed into existing portfolio companies where the Manager has built further conviction in the investment case during the holding period. These follow-on investments represent opportunities to buy into attractive long-term earnings growth and cash generation at attractive valuations.

The Fund deployed significant additional capital into existing portfolio companies during the period. Examples include **Ascential**, a leading international media company which recently disposed of two non-core business segments, leaving a pure-play events business with market leading brands, that trades at an attractive valuation relative to precedent transactions; **Moonpig**, an online leader within the card and gifting market which continues to drive organic growth from its current customer base, and despite exhibiting resilience through the cycle continues to trade at a discounted valuation; and **Team17**, an independent video game developer and publisher which had de-rated following an unexpected profit warning last year. Despite the warning, the Manager continues to believe the company has attractive business fundamentals and trades at a discounted valuation, offering an attractive opportunity to add to the Fund's position.



# WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK SMALLER COMPANIES FUND ACD'S REPORT continued INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT continued

#### **DIVESTMENTS**

Full exits in the period included Ten Entertainment Group (+4.3%), Watkin Jones (-61.8%), LSL Property Services (-2.6%), Smart Metering Systems (+24.7%) and Mattioli Woods (+22.0%). Ten Entertainment Group and Smart Metering Systems were exited following completed takeovers by US private equity firms Trive Capital and KKR respectively. The Manager also exited Mattioli Woods following its recommended cash offer from UK private equity firm, Pollen Street Capital, at a 32% premium to the prior day closing price, since the shares traded close to the offer price and the Fund looked to capitalise on liquidity to invest in new attractive opportunities. Other full divestments related to a change in the Manager's view of the future business prospects following detailed reviews in light of new market information.<sup>6</sup>

#### Investment Performance

The Fund was placed 25th out of 47 in the IA UK Smaller Companies sector delivering a return of positive 8.4% at 30 June 2024 (based on the C Sterling Accumulation share class); marginally underperforming the IA UK Smaller Companies sector which returned a positive 8.7%.

Key contributors to absolute performance during the period were: Keywords Studios (+39.2%) following a recommended cash offer from private equity firm, EQT Group, at a 67% premium to the prior day close; Trustpilot (+44.8%) following a full-year results materially ahead of market expectations and positive management commentary on current-year trading prospects; and Team17 Group (+48.7%), following a strong recovery post last year's profit warning and full-year results which disclosed revenue performance ahead of consensus and increased management positivity on the growth outlook for 2024.

Detractors during the period were Capita (-38.6%), following disappointing full year results, particularly in terms of cash performance; Halfords Group (-29.6%), as challenging retail motoring and cycling markets created a negative operating gearing impact in the last financial year, however, the Manager remains confident in the long-term investment thesis, taking comfort from the encouraging performance of Halford's service, maintenance, and repair offering as well as management-led cost savings programmes; and CVS Group (-39.7%), following confirmation that the UK's competition watchdog will launch a full investigation into the UK veterinary sector.<sup>7</sup>

#### Outlook

We saw green shoots of economic improvement in H1 and are cautiously optimistic that positive trends can continue into the remainder of 2024. UK CPI is now tracking the target inflation level, UK investors have priced in their expectations of two interest rate cuts by the Bank of England in H2, and we have already seen cuts by the European Central Bank.<sup>8</sup> Similarly, UK consumer confidence is at its highest level in almost three



### WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK SMALLER COMPANIES FUND ACD'S REPORT continued INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT continued

years, albeit consumption remains subdued as shown by recent household saving data. However, with real wages growing, the short-term prospect of unwinding mortgage costs, and the relatively 'de-leveraged' UK household compared to 2008/09,9 the economic environment looks potentially more supportive of rising consumption than at any point over the last couple of years.

Turning to UK equity markets and interest rates, the prospect of falling bond yields and price appreciation in H2 may create a favourable 'denominator effect' for UK equity fund flows whereby asset allocators re-weight portfolios towards equities to meet their target asset class exposures. The ensuing liquidity injection into UK funds, and UK smaller companies, could alleviate the downward share price pressure of the last two years caused by meeting redemptions. UK smaller company valuations may then bridge the wide gap relative to their larger UK and international peers, as well as precedent M&A transactions. We see these conditions as supportive of the case for a re-rating of UK smaller companies.

On a similarly positive note, we have seen a growing number of 'early look' and formal pre-IPO meetings during late H1 and into early H2. While equity capital market activity during 2024 has primarily focused on existing listed businesses, notable larger UK IPOs of Raspberry Pi and Aoti took place during H1, along with a smaller IPO of AI-focused IntelliAM in early July. Together with the prospect of improving economic conditions and the possibility of rising UK stock-market valuations, investor and corporate confidence will have grown by observing strengthening post-deal share prices in each instance. We therefore expect further IPO activity to present new opportunities into H2 2024.

Note: Investments carry risks. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. Investors may not get back the amount invested.

GRESHAM HOUSE ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED Investment Manager 19 July 2024

<sup>9</sup> Simon French, Panmure Liberum, "What does the UK economic inheritance look like?", July 2024.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Calastone data.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Berenberg and Bloomberg data as of 30 June 2024. <sup>3</sup> Peel Hunt, "UK M&A – Further Acceleration".

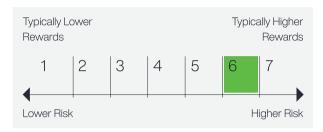
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Office for National Statistics, "Consumer price inflation, UK: May 2024", June 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Based on 12 pm Valuation Point.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Cumulative cash-on-cash return by investment tranche (net proceeds divided by historic cost as a percentage).

<sup>7</sup> Bloomberg, contributors and detractors using TSR. 8 Bloomberg, WIRP function.

#### Risk and Reward Profile



This indicator shows how much a fund has risen and fallen in the past, and therefore how much a fund's returns have varied. It is a measure of a fund's volatility. The higher a fund's past volatility the higher the number on the scale and the greater the risk that investors in that fund may have made losses as well as gains.

The Fund has been classed as 6 because its volatility has been measured as above average to high.

This indicator is based on historical data and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of this Fund.

The risk and reward profile shown is not guaranteed to remain the same and may shift over time. The lowest number on the scale does not mean that a fund is risk free.

Counterparty Risk: The failure of a firm involved in a transaction with the Fund or providing services to the Fund may expose the Fund to financial loss.

Liquidity Risk: Smaller companies' securities are often traded less frequently than those of larger companies which means they may be more difficult to buy and sell. Their prices may also be subject to short term swings (both up and down) in their value.

Concentration Risk: The Fund may invest in shares with a particular industry, sector or geographical focus. This means that the performance of a single industry, sector or geographical region within the Fund has a greater effect (loss or gain) on the value of the Fund.

For more information about the Fund's risks please see the Risk Factors section of the Prospectus which is available at www.waystone.com.



#### Comparative Tables

Information for 30 June 2024 relates to the 6 month period ending 30 June 2024. The operating charges relate to the expenses incurred on an expost basis over the 6 month period ending 30 June 2024, expressed as an annualised percentage of the average net asset value.

#### C STERLING ACCUMULATION SHARES

O OTENERIO A MODOMOEMITON OFFICIALED	30.06.24	31.12.23	31.12.22	31.12.21
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	pence per share	pence per share	pence per share	pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	157.95	147.52	174.83	138.98
Return before operating charges*	13.67	11.92	(25.79)	38.01
Operating charges	(0.70)	(1.49)	(1.52)	(2.16)
Return after operating charges	12.97	10.43	(27.31)	35.85
Distributions	-	(2.77)	(2.27)	(1.20)
Retained distributions on accumulation shares	_	2.77	2.27	1.20
Closing net asset value per share	170.92	157.95	147.52	174.83
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.32	7.07	0.70	2.39
arter direct transaction costs of.	0.02	1.01	0.10	2.00
PERFORMANCE				
Return after charges	8.21%	7.07%	(15.62)%	25.80%
OTHER INFORMATION				
Closing net asset value (£'000)	82,561	48,810	28,743	19,565
Closing number of shares	48,303,146	30,902,185	19,483,526	11,191,088
Operating charges <sup>3</sup>	0.86%2	1.00%1	1.00%1	1.30%1
Direct transaction costs	0.19%	0.28%	0.46%	1.44%
PRICES				
Highest share price	175.84	159.88	177.79	183.25
Lowest share price	152.70	138.95	136.86	139.69

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> From 1 November 2021, the Investment Manager has agreed, on a discretionary basis, to waive an appropriate portion of their fee, with a view that the ongoing charges figure of 1.00% is not exceeded.

<sup>2</sup> With effect from 1 February 2024 the ACD fee reduced to 0.75% from 0.90%.

<sup>3</sup> From 1 February 2024, the Investment Manager has agreed, on a discretionary basis, to waive an appropriate portion of their fee, with a view that the ongoing charges figure of 0.85% is not exceeded.



### Comparative Tables continued

C STERLING INCOME SHARES

C STENLING INCOME SHARES				
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	30.06.24 pence per share	31.12.23 pence per share	31.12.22 pence per share	31.12.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	150.57	143.12	172.20	137.78
Return before operating charges*	13.05	11.62	(25.34)	37.27
Operating charges	(0.67)	(1.46)	(1.50)	(1.68)
Return after operating charges	12.38	10.16	(26.84)	35.59
Distributions		(2.71)	(2.24)	(1.17)
Closing net asset value per share	162.95	150.57	143.12	172.20
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.30	0.41	0.69	2.37
PERFORMANCE				
Return after charges	8.22%	7.10%	(15.59)%	25.83%
OTHER INFORMATION				
Closing net asset value (£'000)	11,794	1,853	1	102
Closing number of shares	7,237,546	1,230,462	740	58,998
Operating charges <sup>3</sup>	0.86%2	1.01%1	1.00%1	1.02%1
Direct transaction costs	0.19%	0.28%	0.46%	1.44%
PRICES				
Highest share price	167.63	155.15	175.14	181.66
Lowest share price	145.57	134.85	134.84	138.46



From 1 November 2021, the Investment Manager has agreed, on a discretionary basis, to waive an appropriate portion of their fee, with a view that the ongoing charges figure of 1.00% is not exceeded.

With effect from 1 February 2024 the ACD fee reduced to 0.75% from 0.90%.

From 1 February 2024, the Investment Manager has agreed, on a discretionary basis, to waive an appropriate portion of their fee, with a view that the ongoing charges figure of 0.85% is not exceeded.

### Comparative Tables continued

C EURO ACCUMULATION SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	30.06.24 € per share	31.12.23 € per share	31.12.22¹ € per share
Opening net asset value per share	0.9535	0.8645	1.0000
Return before operating charges*	0.1032	0.0971	(0.1354)
Operating charges	(0.0024)	(0.0081)	(0.0001)
Return after operating charges	0.1008	0.0890	(0.1355)
Distributions	-	(0.0216)	(0.0171)
Retained distributions on accumulation shares		0.0216	0.0171
Closing net asset value per share	1.0543	0.9535	0.8645
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.0019	0.2500	-
PERFORMANCE Return after charges OTHER INFORMATION	10.57%	10.29%	(13.55)%
Closing number of shares	250	- 250	- 250
Closing number of shares Operating charges	0.49%³	0.90%³	0.91% <sup>2,3</sup>
Direct transaction costs	0.49 %	0.28%	0.46%2
Direct transaction costs	0.1970	0.2070	0.40 70
PRICES			
Highest share price	1.0803	0.9570	0.9944
Lowest share price	0.9317	0.8321	0.8110

From 21 February 2022.

Annualised figure due to share class launched less than 1 year.

The Investment Manager has agreed, on a discretionary basis, to waive an appropriate portion of their fee, with a view that the ongoing charges figure of 1.00% is not exceeded.



### Comparative Tables continued

F STERLING ACCUMULATION SHARES

TOTEREING ACCOMPLATION CHARLES	30.06.24	31.12.23	31.12.22	31.12.211
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	pence per share	pence per share	pence per share	pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	96.17	89.37	105.45	100.00
Return before operating charges*	8.33	7.25	(15.62)	5.78
Operating charges	(0.24)	(0.45)	(0.46)	(0.33)
Return after operating charges	8.09	6.80	(16.08)	5.45
Distributions	_	(2.14)	(1.83)	(1.30)
Retained distributions on				
accumulation shares		2.14	1.83	1.30
Closing net asset value per share	104.26	96.17	89.37	105.45
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.19	0.26	0.42	0.96
PERFORMANCE				
Return after charges	8.41%	7.61%	(15.25)%	5.45%
OTHER INFORMATION				
Closing net asset value (£'000)	65,517	55,758	30,162	16,622
Closing number of shares	62,840,222	57,978,733	33,748,437	15,763,176
Operating charges	0.49%3	0.50% <sup>3</sup>	$0.50\%^{3}$	$0.50\%^{2,3}$
Direct transaction costs	0.19%	0.28%	0.46%	2.25%2
PRICES				
Highest share price	107.22	96.90	107.24	110.28
Lowest share price	92.99	84.53	82.83	99.89

From 13 May 2021.

Annualised figure due to share class launched less than 1 year.

The Investment Manager has agreed, on a discretionary basis, to waive an appropriate portion of their fee, with a view that the ongoing charges figure of 0.50% is not exceeded.



### Comparative Tables continued

E CTEDI	INIC	SHARES

F STERLING INCOME SHARES				
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	30.06.24 pence per share	31.12.23 pence per share	31.12.22 pence per share	31.12.21 <sup>1</sup> pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	91.02	86.49	104.16	100.00
Return before operating charges*	7.90	7.04	(15.40)	5.83
Operating charges	(0.23)	(0.44)	(0.46)	(0.34)
Return after operating charges	7.67	6.60	(15.86)	5.49
Distributions	_	(2.07)	(1.81)	(1.33)
Closing net asset value per share	98.69	91.02	86.49	104.16
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.18	0.25	0.42	0.96
PERFORMANCE				
Return after charges	8.43%	7.63%	(15.23)%	5.49%
OTHER INFORMATION				
Closing net asset value (£'000)	22,660	11,206	6,574	2,266
Closing number of shares	22,961,660	12,310,227	7,600,326	2,175,729
Operating charges	0.49%3	0.50%3	0.50%3	0.51% <sup>2,3</sup>
Direct transaction costs	0.19%	0.28%	0.46%	$2.25\%^{2}$
PRICES				
Highest share price	101.49	93.80	105.95	110.28
Lowest share price	88.02	81.82	81.83	99.91

From 13 May 2021.

Annualised figure due to share class launched less than 1 year.

The Investment Manager has agreed, on a discretionary basis, to waive an appropriate portion of their fee, with a view that the ongoing charges figure of 0.50% is not exceeded.



#### Fund Performance to 30 June 2024 - Cumulative (%)

	6 months	1 year	3 years	5 years
WS Gresham House UK Smaller				
Companies Fund	8.41	17.07	0.33	63.12
IA UK Smaller Companies sector <sup>1</sup>	8.65	13.93	(16.84)	17.39

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Source: Morningstar Direct.

The performance of the Fund is based on the published price per C Sterling Accumulation share which includes reinvested income.

The performance of the Fund disclosed in the above table may differ from the 'Return after charges' disclosed in the Comparative Table due to above performance being calculated on the latest published price prior to the period end, rather than the period end return after operating charges.

#### **RISK WARNING**

An investment in an open-ended investment company should be regarded as a medium to long term investment. Investors should be aware that the price of shares and the income from them can fall as well as rise and investors may not receive back the full amount invested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. Investments denominated in currencies other than the base currency are subject to fluctuation in exchange rates, which can be favourable or unfavourable.



Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	30.06.24 %
	UNITED KINGDOM - 88.46% (31.12.23 - 88.00%)		
	TECHNOLOGY - 15.33% (31.12.23 - 13.08%)		
	SOFTWARE AND COMPUTER SERVICES – 15.33% (31.12.23 – 13.08%)		
1,283,089	Ascential	4,382	2.40
6,987,578	IDOX	4,193	2.30
5,159,137	Learning Technologies	4,359	2.39
1,731,708	Mony	3,844	2.11
750,000	Raspberry Pi	3,004	1.64
4,274,910	Tribal <sup>1</sup>	2,287	1.25
2,750,334	Trustpilot	5,913	3.24
	TOTAL TECHNOLOGY	27,982	15.33
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS - 4.79% (31.12.23 - 5.03%)		
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS - 4.79% (31.12.23 - 5.03%)		
391,537	Gamma Communications	5,521	3.02
182,640	Telecom Plus	3,222	1.77
	TOTAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS	8,743	4.79
	HEALTH CARE - 5.32% (31.12.23 - 4.43%)		
	MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES - 5.32% (31.12.23 - 4.43%)		
1,227,036	Belluscura	184	0.10
241,110	Craneware	5,522	3.03
1,705,381	Spire Healthcare	3,999	2.19
	TOTAL HEALTH CARE	9,705	5.32



Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	30.06.24 %
	FINANCIALS - 12.38% (31.12.23 - 16.86%)		
	INVESTMENT BANKING AND BROKERAGE		
004 504	SERVICES - 10.20% (31.12.23 - 13.58%)	F 700	0.10
284,584	Brooks MacDonald <sup>1</sup>	5,708	3.13
, ,	Peel Hunt <sup>1</sup>	1,764	0.96
, ,	TP ICAP	4,086	2.24
2,369,977	XPS Pensions	7,063	3.87
		18,621	10.20
	OPEN END AND MISCELLANEOUS INVESTMENT		
	VEHICLES - 0.00% (31.12.23 - 0.14%)		
	NONLYEE INCUENANCE OF COMMON COMMON COMMON		
0.040.500	NON LIFE INSURANCE – 2.18% (31.12.23 – 3.14%)	0.075	0.46
2,646,589	Sabre Insurance	3,975	2.18
	TOTAL FINANCIALS	22,596	12.38
	REAL ESTATE - 0.00% (31.12.23 - 1.04%)		
	REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT AND SERVICES		
	DEVELOPMENT - 0.00% (31.12.23 - 1.04%)	_	-
	TOTAL REAL ESTATE		
	CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY - 25.50% (31.12.23 - 19.43%)		
	HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND HOME CONSTRUCTION		
	- 0.00% (31.12.23 - 1.37%)		
	LEISURE GOODS - 5.78% (31.12.23 - 1.82%)		
2,808,821	Hostelworld	4,494	2.46
2,205,414	Team17	6,065	3.32
		10,559	5.78



Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	30.06.24 %
	MEDIA - 4.49% (31.12.23 - 4.46%)		
512,021	Next Fifteen Communications <sup>1</sup>	4,081	2.24
1,057,400	Wilmington	4,113	2.25
		8,194	4.49
	RETAILERS - 7.59% (31.12.23 - 4.81%)		
185,973	CVS	1,871	1.03
3,065,175	Halfords	4,304	2.35
4,032,739	Moonpig	7,686	4.21
		13,861	7.59
	TRAVEL AND LEISURE - 7.64% (31.12.23 - 6.97%)		
1,350,052	Hollywood Bowl	4,125	2.26
1,254,664	Loungers <sup>1</sup>	3,287	1.80
2,734,948	The Gym	3,019	1.66
270,000	Young & Co's Brewery	1,625	0.89
193,428	Young & Co's Brewery 'A'	1,884	1.03
		13,940	7.64
	TOTAL CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	46,554	25.50
	CONSUMER STAPLES - 2.06% (31.12.23 - 2.14%)		
	FOOD PRODUCERS - 2.06% (31.12.23 - 2.14%)		
2,370,414	Premier Foods	3,759	2.06
	TOTAL CONSUMER STAPLES	3,759	2.06



Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	30.06.24 %
	INDUSTRIALS - 20.75% (31.12.23 - 22.43%)		
	INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT SERVICES - 20.75% (31.12.23 - 22.43%)		
1,411,180	Alpha Financial Markets Consulting <sup>1</sup>	6,999	3.83
25,617,759	Capita	3,458	1.89
931,186	Elixirr International <sup>1</sup>	5,122	2.81
2,213,115	Essentra	3,506	1.92
1,816,935	Fintel	5,632	3.09
3,269,479	FRP Advisory <sup>1</sup>	3,874	2.12
1,050,299	Mears	3,849	2.11
1,116,124	Ricardo	5,436	2.98
		37,876	20.75
	TOTAL INDUSTRIALS	37,876	20.75
	ENERGY - 0.43% (31.12.23 - 0.66%)		
	ALTERNATIVE ENERGY - 0.43% (31.12.23 - 0.66%)		
1,085,938	Inspired <sup>1</sup>	<u>793</u>	0.43
	TOTAL ENERGY	793	0.43
	UTILITIES - 1.90% (31.12.23 - 2.90%)		
	WASTE AND DISPOSAL SERVICES - 1.90% (31.12.23 - 2.90%)		
2,422,475	Franchise Brands <sup>1</sup>	3,464	1.90
	TOTAL UTILITIES	3,464	1.90
	TOTAL UNITED KINGDOM	161,472	88.46
	BERMUDA - 0.00% (31.12.23 - 0.25%)		
2,043,492	R&Q Insurance <sup>1</sup>	2	



as at 30 June 2024

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	30.06.24 %
	IRELAND - 5.44% (31.12.23 - 2.60%)		
	CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY - 5.44% (31.12.23 - 2.60%)		
	LEISURE GOODS - 5.44% (31.12.23 - 2.60%)		
429,470	Keywords Studios	9,921	5.44
	TOTAL CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY	9,921	5.44
	TOTAL IRELAND	9,921	5.44
	Portfolio of investments	171,395	93.90
	Net other assets	11,137	6.10
	Net assets	182,532	100.00

The investments are ordinary shares listed on a regulated market unless stated otherwise.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Quoted on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

### WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK SMALLER COMPANIES FUND ACD'S REPORT continued

### SUMMARY OF MATERIAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES

for the half year ended 30 June 2024

Total purchases for the half year £'000	67,736	Total sales for the half year £'000	12,742
Major purchases	Cost £'000	Sales	Proceeds £'000
Fintel	5,460	Smart Metering Systems	3,732
Hollywood Bowl	4,516	Mattiolio Woods	3,544
Hostelworld	4,469	TEN Entertainment	2,938
Moonpig	3,703	Watkin Jones	1,334
Young & Co's Brewery	3,702	LSL Property	1,192
Keywords Studios	3,397	R&Q Insurance	2
Ascential	3,198		
CVS	2,724		
Halfords	2,575		
Alpha Financial Markets Consulting	2,353		

The summary of material portfolio changes represents the 10 largest purchases and all of the sales during the half year.



# WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK SMALLER COMPANIES FUND INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

for the half year ended 30 June 2024

	£'000	30.06.24 £'000	£'000	30.06.23 £'000
Income:				
Net capital gains/(losses)		11,346		(2,697)
Revenue	1,621		1,104	
Expenses	(486)		(293)	
Net revenue before taxation	1,135		811	
Taxation	-		_	
Net revenue after taxation		1,135		811
Total return before distributions		12,481		(1,886)
Distributions		_		_
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders				
from investment activities		12,481		(1,886)

### STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS for the half year ended 30 June 2024

	£'000	30.06.24 £'000	£'000	30.06.23 £'000
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders		117,627		65,480
Amounts receivable on issue of shares	56,828		32,073	
Amounts payable on redemption of shares	(4,404)		(2,980)	
		52,424		29,093
Dilution levy		-		30
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders				
from investment activities		12,481		(1,886)
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders		182,532		92,717

The above statement shows the comparative closing net assets at 30 June 2023 whereas the current accounting period commenced 1 January 2024.



# WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK SMALLER COMPANIES FUND INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) continued BALANCE SHEET

	30.06.24 £'000	31.12.23 £'000
ASSETS		
Fixed assets		
	474.005	400.000
Investments	171,395	106,869
Current assets		
Debtors	3,078	2,972
Cash and bank balances	8,389	9,381
Total assets	182,862	119,222
LIABILITIES		
Creditors		
Distribution payable	_	(288)
Other creditors	(330)	(1,307)
Total liabilities	(330)	(1,595)
Net assets attributable to shareholders	182,532	117,627



### WS GRESHAM HOUSE UK SMALLER COMPANIES FUND INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) continued NOTES TO THE INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the half year ended 30 June 2024

#### Accounting Policies

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 and are described in those annual financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of investments and in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice ('SORP') for Financial Statements of UK Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Association ('IA') in May 2014, as amended.

These financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis. The ACD has made an assessment of the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, and is satisfied it has the resources to continue in business for the foreseeable future and is not aware of any material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt on this assessment. This assessment is made as at the date of issue of these financial statements, covering the subsequent 12 months, and considers liquidity, declines in global capital markets, known redemption levels, expense projections and key service provider's operational resilience. The ACD also considered the Fund's continued ability to meet ongoing costs, and is satisfied it has the resources to meet these costs and to continue in business.

#### 2. Subsequent Events

As at 27 August 2024, the price of each of the Fund's share classes, compared to that at the balance sheet date, has moved as follows:

	Balance		
Share class	sheet date	27.08.24	Movement
C Sterling Accumulation	172.38	183.05	6.19%
C Sterling Income	164.34	174.51	6.19%
F Sterling Accumulation	105.15	111.72	6.25%
F Sterling Income	99.53	105.75	6.25%

The increase in the prices is primarily due to favourable market conditions. These accounts were approved on 29 August 2024.



#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### Share Capital

The minimum share capital of the Company is £1 and the maximum share capital is £50,000,000,000.

#### Structure of WS Gresham House Equity Funds

The Company is structured as an umbrella company, in that different sub-funds may be established from time to time by the ACD with the approval of the FCA. On the introduction of any new sub-fund or class, a revised Prospectus will be prepared setting out the relevant details of each sub-fund or class.

The assets of each sub-fund will be treated as separate from those of every other sub-fund and will be invested in accordance with the investment objective and investment policy applicable to that sub-fund. Investment of the assets of each of the sub-funds must comply with the COLL Sourcebook and the investment objective and policy of the relevant sub-fund. The sub-funds which are currently available are:

WS Gresham House UK Multi Cap Income Fund WS Gresham House UK Smaller Companies Fund

In the future there may be other sub-funds of the Company.

#### Classes of Shares

The Company may issue income and accumulation shares in respect of each sub-fund.

Holders of income shares are entitled to be paid the distributable income attributed to such shares on any relevant interim and annual allocation dates.

Holders of accumulation shares are not entitled to be paid the income attributed to such shares, but that income is automatically transferred to (and retained as part of) the capital assets of the relevant sub-fund on the relevant interim and/or annual accounting dates. This is reflected in the price of an accumulation share.

#### Valuation Point

The current valuation point of each of the Company's sub-funds is 12.00 noon (London time) on each business day. Valuations may be made at other times under the terms contained within the Prospectus.

#### **Buying and Selling Shares**

The ACD will accept orders to deal in the shares on normal business days between 8.30am and 5.30pm (London time) and transactions will be effected at prices determined by the following valuation. Instructions to buy or sell shares may be either in writing to: PO Box 389, Darlington DL1 9UF or by telephone on 0345 922 0044.



#### GENERAL INFORMATION continued

#### Prices

The prices of all shares are published on every dealing day on the website of the ACD: www.waystone.com. The prices of shares may also be obtained by calling 0345 922 0044 during the ACD's normal business hours

#### Other Information

The Instrument of Incorporation, Prospectus, Key Investor Information Documents and the most recent interim and annual reports may be inspected at, and obtained from, the ACD at 3rd Floor, Central Square, 29 Wellington Street, Leeds, United Kingdom, LS1 4DL during normal business hours on any business day, in addition to being available at www.waystone.com.

Shareholders who have any complaints about the operation of the Company should contact the ACD or the Depositary in the first instance. In the event that a shareholder finds the response unsatisfactory they may make their complaint direct to the Financial Ombudsman Service at Exchange Tower, London E14 9SR. Information about the Financial Ombudsman can be found on its website at www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk.

#### **Data Protection Act**

Shareholders' names will be added to a mailing list which may be used by the ACD, its associates or third parties to inform investors of other products by sending details of such products. Shareholders who do not want to receive such details should write to the ACD requesting their removal from any such mailing list.



#### Waystone

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