



WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
(Formerly LF Ruffer Equity & General Fund)

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND (CLOSING)
(Formerly LF Ruffer European Fund)

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND
(Formerly LF Ruffer Total Return Fund)

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND
(Formerly LF Ruffer Gold Fund)

WS RUFFER INVESTMENT FUNDS

(Formerly LF Ruffer Investment Funds)

Annual report and financial statements

15 September 2023



AUTHORISED CORPORATE DIRECTOR ('ACD')

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T.K. Madigan*
K.J. Midl (appointed 9 October 2023)
C. O'Donnell (resigned 8 December 2022)
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ACD'S REPORT

for the year ended 15 September 2023

Authorised Status

WS Ruffer Investment Funds ('the Company') is an investment company with variable capital incorporated in England and Wales under registered number IC00049 and authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority with effect from 18 November 1999. 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, and Russia's incursion into Ukraine in February 2022 remains an unresolved conflict, the consequences of these and other factors continue to be felt 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 seeing inflation rates at levels not seen for many years. To curb the increase in inflation, many nations' central banks have been progressively increasing interest rates, a process which is expected to continue until inflation is brought under control in their respective countries. What is not clear at this time is whether the consequences of these events will culminate in local, or even a global, recession. With this level of economic uncertainty, it is reasonably foreseeable that markets may see further periods of instability and, consequently, volatility in asset pricing.

Important Information

With effect from 16 November 2022, the following changes were made across all of the Company's sub-funds:

- All current investors in the O and S share classes had their holdings converted into either the C or I share classes in the same funds which have a lower Annual Management Charge (AMC); and
- Following the conversion, the O and S share classes were terminated and are no longer available for investment.

These changes were communicated to shareholders in a letter dated 4 October 2022.

The LF Ruffer European Fund and the LF Ruffer Japanese Fund had their final valuations on 5 July 2023. Approval for the Funds to be terminated was granted by the Financial Conduct Authority on 9 June 2023. The LF Ruffer Japanese Fund was terminated as at 5 September 2023. Please note the LF Ruffer European Fund is currently being terminated following receipt of the FCA's approval on 9 June 2023. As a result, the financial statements of the sub-fund only have been prepared on a break-up basis. The financial statements of the Company as a whole continue to be prepared on a going concern basis.

ACD’S REPORT continued

Important Information continued

With effect from 9 October 2023, the following changes occurred:

- The ACD of the Company changed to Waystone Management (UK) Limited (‘WMUK’);
- In addition to the sub-funds’ name changes with ‘WS’ replacing ‘LF’, the Company name changed to WS Ruffer Investment Funds;
- The head office and registered office of the Company changed to 2nd floor, 20-22 Bedford Row, Holborn, London WC1R 4EB; and
- The website for the publication of prices, and obtaining documents of the sub-funds of the Company changed to www.waystone.com.

Cross Holdings

The following sub-funds were held by the WS Ruffer Total Return Fund, another sub-fund of the Company, at the end of the year.

Sub-Fund	Shares	Value £’000
WS Ruffer European	4,100,000	267
WS Ruffer Gold	28,500,000	72,564
WS Ruffer Japanese	9,200,000	65

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

Remuneration Disclosure

On 9 October 2023, i.e. after the accounting period for which this report and accounts is being prepared, the ACD of the Fund changed. These report and accounts are being produced by the Fund’s current ACD and the disclosures below relate to the most recent period for which audited information in respect of the current ACD is available, being the year ended 31 December 2022.

Investors’ attention is drawn to the following:

1. The remuneration arising in respect of the accounting period for which this report and accounts is being prepared related to the Fund’s previous ACD. We understand that the previous ACD discloses information in respect of that remuneration on its website.
2. The change of ACD was part of a wider corporate transaction whereby substantially all the previous ACD’s Funds were transferred to the current ACD. As a result circa £83 billion of funds under management were transferred to the current ACD. The effects of this transaction in terms of remuneration will be reported to investors in due course once more recent audited accounts for the current ACD are available.

ACD'S REPORT continued

Remuneration Disclosure continued

REMUNERATION

The ACD is subject to a remuneration policy which is consistent with the principles outlined in the European Securities and Markets Authority guidelines on sound remuneration policies under the Directive.

The fixed remuneration paid by the ACD to its staff in respect of all funds that it manages in the year ended 31 December 2022 was £823,929 and was shared amongst 12 members of staff (31.12.21: £751,344; 12 members of staff). The fixed remuneration paid by the ACD to the Remuneration Code Staff for the year ended 31 December 2022 was £292,500, shared amongst 3 employees. All 12 ACD staff members were fully or partially involved in the activities of the Company. The ACD did not pay any variable remuneration. The ACD staff remuneration is established with reference to the market remuneration of each equivalent position and is not linked to the performance of the Company or any other alternative investment fund the ACD is the AIFM of. None of the ACD's staff actions had a material impact on the risk profile of the Company.

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 <http://www.fundsolutions.net/uk/ruffer-llp/ws-ruffer-investment-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.

Value Assessment

In accordance with current Financial Conduct Authority rules, the ACD is required to carry out an annual assessment on whether the Company provides value to investors. The outcome of the latest assessment is available on the ACD's website.

WAYSTONE MANAGEMENT (UK) LIMITED

ACD of WS Ruffer Investment Funds
12 January 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 Ruffer Investment Funds

12 January 2024

STATEMENT OF ACD'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook published by the Financial Conduct Authority ('the COLL Sourcebook') requires the ACD to prepare financial statements for each annual accounting year which give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company, comprising each of its sub-funds, and of the net revenue/expense and net capital gains/losses on the property of the Company's sub-funds for the year.

In preparing the financial statements the ACD is responsible for:

- selecting suitable accounting policies and then applying them consistently;
- making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- following UK accounting standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland;
- complying with the disclosure requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice for UK Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Association in May 2014;
- keeping proper accounting records which enable it to demonstrate that the financial statements as prepared comply with the above requirements;
- assessing the Company and its sub-funds' ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern;
- using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to wind up the Company or its sub-funds or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so;
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; and
- taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and irregularities.

For the reasons disclosed in Note 1(A), the ACD has prepared the financial statements of the WS Ruffer European Fund on a break-up basis as this sub-fund is not a going concern.

The ACD is responsible for the management of the Company in accordance with its Instrument of Incorporation, the Prospectus and the COLL Sourcebook.

STATEMENT OF DEPOSITARY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Depositary must ensure that the Company is managed in accordance with the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook, the Open-Ended Investment Companies Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/1228), as amended, the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, as amended, (together 'the Regulations'), the Company's Instrument of Incorporation and Prospectus (together 'the Scheme documents') as detailed below.

The Depositary must in the context of its role act honestly, fairly, professionally, independently and in the interests of the Company and its investors.

The Depositary is responsible for the safekeeping of all custodial assets and maintaining a record of all other assets of the Company in accordance with the Regulations.

The Depositary must ensure that:

- the Company's cash flows are properly monitored and that cash of the Company is booked into the cash accounts in accordance with the Regulations;
- the sale, issue, repurchase, redemption and cancellation of shares are carried out in accordance with the Regulations;
- the value of shares of the Company are calculated in accordance with the Regulations;
- any consideration relating to transactions in the Company's assets is remitted to the Company within the usual time limits;
- the Company's income is applied in accordance with the Regulations; and
- the instructions of the ACD, which is the UCITS Management Company, are carried out (unless they conflict with the Regulations).

The Depositary also has a duty to take reasonable care to ensure that the Company is managed in accordance with the Regulations and the Scheme documents in relation to the investment and borrowing powers applicable to the Company.

REPORT OF THE DEPOSITARY

Having carried out such procedures as we consider necessary to discharge our responsibilities as Depositary of the Company, it is our opinion, based on the information available to us and the explanations provided, that in all material respects the Company, acting through the ACD:

- (i) has carried out the issue, sale, redemption and cancellation, and calculation of the price of the Company's shares and the application of the Company's revenue in accordance with the Regulations and the Scheme documents of the Company; and
- (ii) has observed the investment and borrowing powers and restrictions applicable to the Company.

THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON (INTERNATIONAL) LIMITED

Depositary of WS Ruffer Investment Funds

12 January 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WS RUFFER INVESTMENT FUNDS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of WS Ruffer Investment Funds ('the Company') comprising each of its sub-funds for the year ended 15 September 2023, which comprise the Statement of Total Return, the Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders, the Balance Sheet, the related notes and the Distribution Tables for each sub-fund, and the accounting policies of the Company set out on pages 18 to 23, which include a summary of 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 to 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 financial position of the Company comprising each of its sub-funds as at 15 September 2023 and of the net revenue and the net capital gains/losses on the scheme property of the Company and each of its sub-funds for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

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 below. 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 Financial Reporting Council's (the FRC) 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 – Financial Statements Prepared on a Break-up Basis

We draw attention to Note 1(A) of the financial statements which explains that the ACD intends to close the WS Ruffer European Fund and therefore, does not consider it to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements for this sub-fund.

Accordingly, the financial statements for this sub-fund have been prepared on a break-up basis as described in Note 1(A). The financial statements for the Company as a whole remain prepared on a going concern basis. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WS RUFFER INVESTMENT FUNDS continued

Conclusions Relating to Going Concern

The financial statements for the WS Ruffer European Fund have been prepared on a break-up basis as disclosed in note 1(A).

The financial statements for the Ruffer European sub-fund have been prepared on a break-up basis as disclosed in Note 1a. In auditing the financial statements of the remaining sub-funds, we have concluded that the Authorised Corporate Director's ('the ACD') use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate. Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the remaining sub-funds' ability to continue as a going concern.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the ACD with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the remaining sub-funds' ability to continue as a going concern.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the remaining sub-funds' ability to continue as a going concern for a period of 12 months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the ACD with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report. However, because not all future events or conditions can be predicted, this statement is not a guarantee as to the remaining sub-funds' ability to continue as a going concern.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The ACD is responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in this 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 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 the other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WS RUFFER INVESTMENT FUNDS continued

Opinions on Other Matters Prescribed by the Rules of the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook of the Financial Conduct Authority (the 'FCA')

In our opinion:

- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice relating to Authorised Funds, the rules of the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook of the FCA and the Prospectus; and
- there is nothing to indicate that adequate accounting records have not been kept or that the financial statements are not in agreement with those records; and
- the information given in the ACD's report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on Which We Are Required to Report by Exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matter in relation to which the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook of the FCA requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- we have not received all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

Responsibilities of the ACD

As explained more fully in the ACDs responsibilities statement set out on page 10, the ACD is 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 ACD determines 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 ACD is 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 ACD either intends to wind up or terminate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WS RUFFER INVESTMENT FUNDS continued

Explanation as to What Extent the Audit Was Considered Capable of Detecting Irregularities, Including Fraud

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect irregularities, including fraud. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both those charged with governance of the entity and management.

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Company and determined that the most significant are United Kingdom Accounting Standards (UK GAAP) including FRS 102, the Investment Management Association's Statement of Recommended Practice (IMA SORP), the FCA Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook, the OEIC Regulations, the Fund's Instrument of Incorporation and the Prospectus.
- We understood how the Company is complying with those frameworks through discussions with the ACD and the Company's administrators and a review of the Company's documented policies and procedures.
- We assessed the susceptibility of the Company's financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur by considering the risk of management override, specifically management's propensity to influence revenue and amounts available for distribution. We identified a fraud risk with respect to the incomplete or inaccurate income recognition through incorrect classification of special dividends and the resulting impact to amounts available for distribution. We tested the appropriateness of management's classification of material special dividends as either a capital or revenue return. We also identified a fraud risk relating to unlisted investments and the resulting impact to the valuation of investments held by the Company. We have used internal experts to independently value the unlisted investments in order to verify the Company's valuation of these investments.
- Based on this understanding we designed our audit procedures to identify non-compliance with such laws and regulations. Our procedures involved review of the reporting to the ACD with respect to the application of the documented policies and procedures and review of the financial statements to test compliance with the reporting requirements of the Company.
- Due to the regulated nature of the Company, the Statutory Auditor considered the experience and expertise of the engagement team to ensure that the team had the appropriate competence and capabilities which included the use of specialists where appropriate to identify non-compliance with the applicable laws and regulations.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WS RUFFER INVESTMENT FUNDS continued

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

Use of Our Report

This report is made solely to the Company's Shareholders, as a body, pursuant to Paragraph 4.5.12 of the rules of the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook of the Financial Conduct Authority. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Company's Shareholders 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 Shareholders as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

ERNST & YOUNG LLP

Statutory Auditor
Edinburgh
12 January 2024

ACCOUNTING AND DISTRIBUTION POLICIES

for the year ended 15 September 2023

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies, which have been applied to the financial statements of the sub-funds in both the current and prior year, are set out below. These have been applied consistently across all sub-funds unless otherwise stated in the Notes to the Financial Statements of each sub-fund.

(A) BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The financial statements of each sub-fund 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 each sub-fund's ability to continue as a going concern, and is satisfied they have 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 and key service provider's operational resilience. The ACD also considered each sub-fund's continued ability to meet ongoing costs, and is satisfied they have the resources to meet these costs and to continue in business.

The financial statements for the WS Ruffer European Fund have been prepared on a break-up basis as the ACD made the decision to close the sub-fund and, therefore, do not consider it to be appropriate to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements. Under this basis assets were recorded at their recoverable value and liabilities were recorded at their expected settlement value.

Any additional costs in respect of the termination of the sub-fund will be borne by the ACD.

No adjustments were necessary except for reclassifying fixed assets as current assets. The financial statements for the remaining sub-funds of the Company have been prepared on the going concern basis.

(B) RECOGNITION OF REVENUE

Dividends on quoted equities and preference shares are recognised when the securities are quoted ex-dividend.

Distributions from collective investment schemes are recognised when the schemes are quoted ex-distribution. Equalisation returned with the distribution is deducted from the cost of the investment in the scheme and does not form part of the distributable revenue.

Reportable income from funds with 'reporting fund' status for UK tax purposes is recognised when the information is made available by the reporting fund.

ACCOUNTING AND DISTRIBUTION POLICIES continued

Revenue from unquoted equity investments is recognised when the dividend is declared.

Revenue on debt securities is accounted for on an effective yield basis.

Rebates of annual management charges (AMC rebates) from underlying investments are accounted for on an accruals basis and are recognised as revenue, or capital in line with the allocation of the annual management charge between capital and revenue of the underlying investments.

The treatment of the income on derivative contracts is dependent upon the nature of the transaction. To determine whether the returns should be treated as capital or revenue the motive and circumstances of the transaction are used. Where positions are undertaken to protect or enhance capital, the returns are recognised in net capital gains; similarly where positions are taken to generate or protect revenue, the returns are included within net revenue before taxation. Where positions generate total returns it will generally be appropriate to apportion such returns between capital and revenue to properly reflect the nature of the transaction.

Interest on bank and other cash deposits is recognised on an accruals basis.

Revenue is recognised gross of any withholding taxes but excludes attributable tax credits.

(C) TREATMENT OF EXPENSES

All expenses, except for those relating to the purchase and sale of investments, are charged initially against revenue.

(D) ALLOCATION OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES TO MULTIPLE SHARE CLASSES AND SUB-FUNDS

Any revenue or expense not directly attributable to a particular share class or sub-fund will normally be allocated pro-rata to the net assets of the relevant share classes and sub-funds, unless a different allocation method is deemed more appropriate by the ACD.

All share classes are ranked *pari passu* and have no particular rights or terms attached, including rights on winding up.

(E) TAXATION

Corporation tax is provided at 20% on taxable revenue, after deduction of allowable expenses.

Offshore income gains, from funds without reporting status, are liable to corporation tax at 20% and any resulting charge is deducted from capital.

Where overseas tax has been deducted from overseas revenue that tax can, in some instances, be set off against the corporation tax payable by way of double tax relief and where this is the case the offset is reflected in the tax charge.

ACCOUNTING AND DISTRIBUTION POLICIES continued

Deferred tax is provided using the liability method on all timing differences arising on the treatment of certain items for taxation and accounting purposes, calculated at the rate at which it is anticipated the timing differences will reverse. Deferred tax assets are recognised only when, on the basis of available evidence, it is more likely than not that there will be taxable profits in the future against which the deferred tax asset can be offset.

(F) BASIS OF VALUATION OF INVESTMENTS

All investments are valued at their fair value as at close of business on the last business day of the financial year.

Quoted investments are valued at fair value which generally is the bid price, excluding any accrued interest in the case of debt securities. Accrued interest on debt securities is included in revenue.

Collective investment schemes are valued at published bid prices for dual priced funds and at published prices for single priced funds.

Open forward currency contracts are valued based on the difference between the contract value and the market value adjusted by the prevailing spot rate and swap curve.

Structured products for which a price can only be obtained from the issuer are valued at the fair value per the issuer and the value is confirmed by an independent price provider by reference to the terms as defined in the term sheet of the structured product.

The market value of over the counter (OTC) derivatives is determined based on valuation pricing models which take into account relevant market inputs as well as the time values, liquidity and volatility factors underlying the positions.

For investments for which there is no quoted price or for which the quoted price is unreliable, fair value is determined by the ACD, taking into account, where appropriate, latest dealing prices, valuations from reliable sources, financial performance, maturity of the company and other relevant factors.

Investments which are unquoted at the time of investment or where an investment priced as quoted and as the consequences of actions to it, becomes effectively unquoted, are held at fair value, which is initially equal to cost and thereafter requires significant estimation in concluding on their fair value. While there is a robust and consistent valuation process undertaken by the ACD's Fair Value Pricing Committee, it is recognised that in stating these assets at fair value there is a significant element of estimation uncertainty. In line with the ACD's Fair Value Policy for reviewing investment valuations, the assumptions and estimates made in determining the fair value of each unquoted investment are considered at least each six months or sooner if there is a triggering event. The judgements to the estimations of fair value are considered on an ongoing basis including considering impact of events in the wider market. In making these estimates, appropriate care is taken to consider the nature and inherent uncertainties of market events and their impact on the fair value of unquoted assets.

ACCOUNTING AND DISTRIBUTION POLICIES continued

The ACD's estimations of net realisable value are considered on an ongoing basis, including with regard to the impact of events in the wider market. Appropriate care is taken to consider the nature and inherent uncertainties of market events and their impact on the net realisable value of Unquoted assets. A specific example of this was the consideration given by the ACD in March 2020 and onwards, to the International Private Equity and Venture Capital ('IPEV') Special Valuation Guidelines ('SVG') issued on 31 March 2020 which set out, given the magnitude of the COVID-19 pandemic and the significant uncertainty this created, information asset valuers may consider when applying the International Private Equity and Venture Capital Valuation Guidelines ('the Guidelines'). The Guidelines were revised in December 2022 and became effective from 1 January 2023 and were adopted at that time by the ACD. The key enhancements in the revised Guidelines is the incorporation of the matters considered in the SVG, clarification that fair value is based on known and knowable information on the measurement date, clarity with respect to price of a recent investment, and clarity with respect to multiples and metrics.

In determining the net realisable value of the unquoted investments, the ACD has adhered to the principles set out below (which are consistent with the Guidelines). The following factors may be considered in determining the net realisable value of an asset:

- a. The price of a recent investment, whilst an indicator of net realisable value, is not a default that would preclude re-estimating the valuation at the valuation date. However, if the price of recent investment is determined to be net realisable value then it is used to calibrate inputs to the valuation model(s); or
- b. Where a value is indicated by a recent material arms-length transaction by an independent third party in the shares of a company, and after it is established that this is net realisable value then this value will be used, unless the rights attributable to the shares impact the overall capital structure and rights of existing investors; or
- c. In the absence of (a) and (b), and depending upon both the subsequent trading performance and investment structure of an investee company, the valuation basis will usually move to an earnings multiple basis or, if appropriate, other valuation models such as:
 - i. Probability-weighted expected return method (PWERM), which considers on a probability weighted basis the future outcomes for the investment;
 - ii. Option priced modelling (OPM) is used to value early stage companies where outcomes are uncertain;
 - iii. Adjusted recent transaction prices (which consider the company's performance against key milestones and the complexity of the capital structure) are also used; or
 - iv. Discounted cash flow model which values a business based on estimates of future cash-flows with an appropriate discount rate.
- d. If the investment is in a fund then the valuation will be based on the Net Asset Value of the fund (which is invariably comprised of early-stage unquoted investments), or on an adjusted basis to recognise the underlying performance of the investments.

ACCOUNTING AND DISTRIBUTION POLICIES continued

Where models are used in valuing an investment, significant judgements are made in estimating the various inputs into the models and recognising the sensitivity of such estimates, especially in early-stage pre-revenue enterprises.

Examples of the factors where significant judgement is made include, but are not limited to – the probability assigned to the relative success or failure of an enterprise; the probable future outcome paths; discount rates; growth rates; terminal value; selection of appropriate market comparable companies, the reliability of future revenue and growth forecasts and the likely exit scenarios for the investee company, for example, IPO or trade sale. In making judgements in regard to the probability of an investee outcome, it must be noted that due to the nature of the investee company's activity, its future outcome may, to a greater or lesser extent, be binary, for example, if an investee company is developing one particular drug and that fails its required trials then the outcome may be terminal for that enterprise. It should be noted that the most significant events that will drive valuation change in investee companies are company-specific events that would give rise to a valuation inflexion point (known also as a 'triggering event'). An example of a material inflexion point in a bio-pharma company would be the successful completion of a drug trial or its approval by a regulatory authority.

These valuation methods may lead to a company being valued on a suitable price-earnings ratio to that company's historic, current or forecast post-tax earnings before interest and amortisation (the ratio used being based on a comparable sector but the resulting value being adjusted to reflect points of difference identified when compared to the market sector (which the investment would reside in were it listed) including, inter alia, a lack of marketability).

(G) EXCHANGE RATES

The base and functional currency of the sub-funds is pounds sterling. Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded in sterling at the rate ruling at the date of the transactions. Assets and liabilities expressed in foreign currencies at the end of the accounting period are translated into sterling at the exchange rate prevailing at close of business on the last business day of the financial year.

(H) DILUTION LEVY

The ACD may require a dilution levy on the purchase and redemption of shares if, in its opinion, the existing shareholders (for purchases) or remaining shareholders (for redemptions) might otherwise be adversely affected. For example, the dilution levy may be charged in the following circumstances: where the scheme property of a sub-fund is in continual decline; on a sub-fund experiencing large levels of net purchases relative to its size; on 'large deals' (typically being a purchase or redemption of shares to a size exceeding 5% of the Net Asset Value of the relevant sub-fund); in any case where the ACD is of the opinion that the interests of existing or remaining shareholders require the imposition of a dilution levy.

ACCOUNTING AND DISTRIBUTION POLICIES continued

(I) DIRECT TRANSACTION COSTS

Direct transaction costs may consist of fees and commissions paid to agents, advisers, brokers and dealers, levies by regulatory agencies and securities exchanges, and transfer taxes and duties. Debt security investments have no separately identifiable transaction costs as they form part of the dealing spread. Indirect transaction costs may be incurred on transactions in underlying schemes but these do not form part of the direct transaction costs disclosures. Direct transaction costs do not include any difference between the quoted bid and offer prices or internal administrative or holding costs. The average portfolio dealing spread disclosed is the difference between the bid and offer prices of investments at the balance sheet date, including the effect of foreign exchange, expressed as a percentage of the value determined by reference to the offer price.

(J) IN-SPECIE TRANSFER

The ACD may arrange for a sub-fund to issue shares in exchange for assets other than cash and may also redeem shares via a transfer of scheme property instead of a payment of cash. The issue/redemption of shares and the transfer of assets will be recognised on the effective date of the in-specie transfer.

2. Distribution Policies

Surplus revenue after expenses and taxation, as disclosed in the financial statements, after adjustment for items of a capital nature, is distributable to shareholders. Any deficit of revenue is deducted from capital.

Interim distributions may be made at the ACD's discretion. Final distributions are made in accordance with the COLL Sourcebook.

Distributions which have remained unclaimed by shareholders for more than six years are credited to the capital property of the sub-fund.

The ordinary element of stock received in lieu of cash dividends is credited to capital in the first instance followed by a transfer to revenue of the cash equivalent being offered and this forms part of the distributable revenue of the Fund. In the case of an enhanced stock dividend, the value of the enhancement is treated as capital and does not form part of any distribution.

Special dividends are reviewed on a case by case basis in determining whether the dividend is to be treated as revenue or capital. Amounts recognised as revenue will form part of the distributable revenue. Amounts recognised as capital are deducted from the cost of the investment. The tax accounting treatment follows the treatment of the principal amount.

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND ACD'S REPORT

for the year ended 15 September 2023

Important Information

Refer to the 'Important Information' section on pages 6 and 7.

Investment Objective and Policy

The investment objective of WS Ruffer Equity & General Fund ('the Fund') is to seek to achieve capital growth over the longer term (at least seven years), after all costs and charges have been taken.

Underlying this objective is a fundamental philosophy of capital preservation.

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

The investment policy of the Fund is to invest both directly and indirectly at least 60% of its total assets by value in global equities or equity related securities. As part of the equity exposure, the Fund may invest in Investment Trusts.

The Fund may also invest up to 40% of its total assets by value in investment grade and non-investment grade (including non-rated) bonds (corporate and government), treasury bills, commodities (such as precious metals), money market instruments, deposits and cash.

The Fund may gain exposure to these assets directly by investing in securities issued by companies and governments, and indirectly by investing in other permissible transferable securities and collective investment schemes and derivatives. Indirect investments may include instruments managed or advised by the ACD or the Investment Manager or their associates. Exposure to commodities will be through indirect investments only. For reasons such as operational efficiency and market access, the Fund may access a specific investment indirectly by holding a structured product. Structured products are a type of investment where the return depends on the performance of a specific financial market or specific asset(s).

Investments in collective investment schemes is limited to 10% of total assets by value.

The Fund can invest across different geographic regions, emerging markets, industry sectors and market capitalisations without limitation.

Derivatives may be used for both investment and efficient portfolio management purposes, including hedging. Derivative usage may be used to indirectly gain exposure to currencies, interest rates and volatility markets but otherwise will be limited to contracts relating to the asset classes noted above. This may include structured products.

The limits referenced above will not apply under extraordinary market conditions. Examples of extraordinary market conditions include economic, political unrest or instability and world events leading to high market valuations, market instability or any events which give rise to high downside risk. During such periods, the Fund may temporarily invest up to 75% of its total assets in cash, deposits, treasury bills, government bonds or money market instruments.

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

Benchmark

The Fund's comparator benchmark is the IA Flexible Investment sector.

The Fund's performance may be compared against the IA Flexible Investment sector. The ACD believes that this is an appropriate comparator 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.

WAYSTONE MANAGEMENT (UK) LIMITED

ACD of WS Ruffer Equity & General Fund

12 January 2024

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

for the year ended 15 September 2023

The price of the C Accumulation shares of the Fund increased by 4.4% in the 12 months to 15 September 2023. This compares with an increase of 2.2% in the comparator IA Flexible Investment Sector ('IAF'). Currency exposure at the end of the period was around 77% in Sterling, 9% in the US Dollar, 5% in the Yen and 6% in gold.

In 2022 the huge excesses of the last many years mostly disappeared: bonds with negative yields are almost non-existent, solid franchises such as Exxon are not worth less than profitless tech companies and on average valuations are currently more balanced/less extreme. It is healthy that the cost of money is not zero, and as Mr Buffett has wisely said "interest rates are to asset prices like gravity is to the apple; they power everything in the economic universe". Nevertheless, securities of most quality businesses are still not undervalued; in particular the US market is not cheap and we would not be surprised if equities de-rate further over time. We stick to our knitting: the Fund seeks to generate equity-like returns over the long term, take less risk than the market and avoid permanent loss of capital. Since we started managing the Fund in 2008, the return has been 178.5% versus 103.2% for IAF to the end of August 2023. The result over the last 16 years has been a portfolio with relatively low volatility (approximately half that of the market) and rare annual losses (in 2018). It should be remembered however, that while we try hard to preserve our capital, it is almost certain that we will lose money at some point in time; we aim to outperform and build value during falling markets.

People who entered our business 50 years or so ago would say that back then only a handful decided to become fund managers: a very small percentage of the best university graduates wanted to practise investing. Nowadays investing is one of the most popular professions. Warren Buffett is an idol – an overwhelming number of people follow his every word. Companies are as efficient as they have ever been, returns on equity are high and profit margins are at almost record levels. The concept of shareholder value has never been accepted so widely. Despite the proliferation of technology and the use of machines which are reducing inefficiencies and hence, have made the market more difficult to beat, investing seems to be as lucrative and as fashionable as ever. You may ask what does all this mean? We should probably be more sceptical of the markets and expect much lower average future returns. Nevertheless, investing will remain interesting and rewarding as long as humans exhibit fear and greed. The margin of safety, which has become such a popular phrase, is a cornerstone of our practice but we have had to adapt. We have always said that we buy part of a business not just a stock. We continue to identify potential mispricing of businesses within out of favour sectors and are also backing special situations. As long as economic activity and/or markets remain buoyant, it is probable that our potential investments focus more on the latter. These restructuring cases involve 'value and change', backing the right people. Picking outstanding individuals and management depends on very subjective judgement, and hence, an area where hopefully competition (via 'human' or artificial intelligence) will continue to be somewhat less fierce.

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT continued

We expect higher market volatility in the next few years and we are putting even higher emphasis on the 'jockey': we believe strong CEOs who have significant stakes in their firms will keep making the difference, in particular through the more turbulent times. We admire the intensity and back the money makers Martyn Ratcliffe at Science Group, Sue Nabi at Coty, Leo Quinn at Balfour Beatty, Larry Culp at GE and Vassilakis at Aegean/Autohellas.

Coty has done well for us in 2023. Coty had been managed badly, focusing on cost cutting for years but after many changes, it now has an outstanding CEO, Sue Nabi, a former L'Oréal executive, who deeply understands the beauty industry. She focuses on the 'product', aiming to drive innovation and enhance revenues and so far, results have been consistently solid. Ms Nabi is a good complement to Dr Harf, Coty's Chairman, main shareholder, and a key pillar to our investment. We back them to make Coty a much bigger business over time and build shareholder value. Not only has Ms Nabi been executing well but she and her team have also been very wise in capital allocation: last year when the business was consistently delivering and as the market was ignoring the shares, Coty's management structured very intelligent buybacks: these were done opportunistically at low prices, creating value for all Coty's long term shareholders. It is scarce to find so talented management and we are fortunate to have Ms Nabi.

Further in 2023, we have gradually added to our shareholding in Science Group ('SAG'), the research and development consultancy which has significant property value, net cash and has been an astute acquirer of businesses. We back its chairman (and main shareholder) M. Ratcliffe, an entrepreneur with a unique combination of operational acumen and focus on capital allocation. The acquisition of Frontier in 2019 proved to be outstanding, SAG remains strongly cash generative and is becoming a more diversified business. During the tough times of COVID, Science Group demonstrated solid operational performance and increased its profitability. Mr Ratcliffe has consistently produced enormous value for the shareholders of the companies he has led. In September 2021 we participated in the first placing of SAG since 2010 and we expected it to become a much larger business over time. Subsequently SAG finalised the acquisition of TP Group and we are confident, as history has repeatedly showed, that Mr Ratcliffe and his team will keep generating value for SAG's long-term shareholders. And as the business is now much larger and more diversified and the stock has not reacted to SAG's positive development, while SAG trades at single digit multiples to our estimates of its earnings power, it is not surprising that opportunistic buybacks are very value enhancing for all SAG's long-term shareholders. We are fortunate to partner with Mr Ratcliffe.

During the last few months, the emergence of AI has been instrumental in reviving the animal spirits in the US market. Capital has been allocated to a small number of 'growth' stocks which have driven the very strong performance of the Nasdaq and the S&P 500, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average has significantly lagged. All this is reminiscent to the COVID era during the summer of 2020: 'momentum' and 'growth' doing well while our stocks, the more 'real/value', lagged. Back then it was Salesforce and Zoom, now it is Nvidia at c40 P/E. On the other hand, the market offers undervalued stocks – in particular, the ones without momentum remain

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT continued

undervalued. For example, stocks listed in the UK (but often with global revenues) are very cheap, hence the UK represents approximately a third of our portfolio. While 2022 was an unusual period of normalisation (almost an exception since 2008), over the last many years the Fed has pushed market participants to be embracing risk, in essence not to be prudent. And AI in 2023 has been a 'Pavlov' moment for risk taking.

Our strategy in the Fund has focused on having protection on the indices (eg the SPX which has large tech exposure and very narrow leadership (Amazon, Google, Facebook, Apple, Nvidia, Microsoft)) and on investing in undervalued stocks after intense business analysis – we have been investing in 'value' while hedging part of our market exposure. We aim to be prudent, even though in the short term our strategy has been out of favour. And as the market is currently more bifurcated, we continue to find opportunities. For example, we have increased our shareholding in tobacco stocks, namely British American Tobacco ('BAT') and Philip Morris International ('PMI'). We see them as complementary: BAT is a deep value case while PMI, a higher quality compounder and they are both characterised by very attractive dividend yields. Similarly, we have built a position in the telecom industry with Orange and Vodafone. The former is likely to be a lower risk stock offering a c7% dividend yield, while Vodafone is a deep value case potentially involving corporate activity. We have also initiated a small position in Bank of America – this is a strong franchise and an undervalued stock complementing well our portfolio of high quality and currently out of favour financials.

We have also been taking profits in our Greek stocks. As mentioned before, the last few years have been the first time we have felt positive towards the Greek market. In 2020 the market cap of the Athens Stock Exchange represented approximately 25% of Greek GDP, a third of the relative value of many European markets and many Greek stocks were significantly undervalued. While Greece has been run by a pro-business leader and fundamentals seem to keep improving, more recently the stock market has been very strong (one of the best in the world this year), hence we have reduced our exposure, always focusing on risk adjusted returns.

Finally, we have recently been allocating capital to Roche and Pfizer. The share price of Roche has suffered as its R&D capabilities are questioned. We back the new CEO Schinecker to gradually rebuild the pipeline and deliver value for shareholders over time. Roche complements well our higher risk and potentially higher reward investment in Pfizer – we bet on Albert Bourla, the intense leader, who was so successful during COVID.

With fixed income securities vulnerable, stock markets at worryingly high levels and cash more valuable, our portfolio structure is increasingly appealing. We aim for risk-adjusted returns in building and managing our portfolio of intensely researched equities.

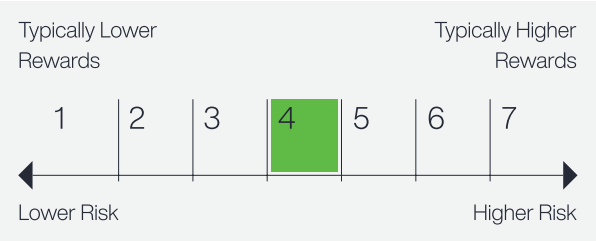
RUFFER LLP

Investment Manager

5 October 2023

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
ACD’S REPORT continued
FUND INFORMATION

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 lowest number on the scale does not mean that a fund is risk free.

The Fund has been classed as 4 because its volatility has been measured as 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.

Currency Risk: As the Fund can be exposed to different currencies, changes in exchange rates may decrease the value of your investment.

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.

Emerging Markets Risk: The Fund may invest in emerging markets, which are markets in countries that are developing. Emerging markets may have more political and economic risks than developed markets, resulting in price movements that may cause a loss to the Fund.

Changes in Interest Rate Risk: A rise in interest rates generally cause 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: The Fund may invest in assets where, in difficult market conditions, there is an increased risk that a position cannot be bought or sold in a timely manner or at a reasonable price and the Manager may suspend dealing in the Fund.

Derivatives Risk: A derivative may not perform as expected and may create losses greater than its cost.

Alternative Investment Risk: The Fund may invest in other investment vehicles to gain indirect exposure to alternative assets such as property and precious metals.

Exposure to such investments can involve a higher degree of risk that may increase the risk of investment loss. The performance of such vehicles can be volatile and there is a risk that investors may experience a delay in receiving redemption proceeds.

For full details of the Fund’s risks, please see the Prospectus which may be obtained upon application and can be found on the ACD’s website, www.waystone.com.

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

FUND INFORMATION continued

Comparative Tables

I INCOME SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	15.09.23 pence per share	15.09.22 pence per share	15.09.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	489.48	512.79	409.58
Return before operating charges*	33.45	(12.90)	111.50
Operating charges	(5.54)	(5.44)	(5.15)
Return after operating charges	27.91	(18.34)	106.35
Distributions	(7.97)	(4.97)	(3.14)
Closing net asset value per share	509.42	489.48	512.79
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.39	(0.45)	0.57

PERFORMANCE

Return after charges	5.70%	(3.58)%	25.97%
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OTHER INFORMATION

Closing net asset value (£'000)	5,173	3,627	6,400
Closing number of shares	1,015,528	741,090	1,248,148
Operating charges	1.08%	1.07%	1.08%
Direct transaction costs	0.08%	0.09%	0.12%

PRICES

Highest share price	538.28	525.03	528.06
Lowest share price	478.11	493.81	402.13

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

FUND INFORMATION continued

Comparative Tables continued

I ACCUMULATION SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	15.09.23 pence per share	15.09.22 pence per share	15.09.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	580.92	602.51	478.32
Return before operating charges*	39.65	(15.20)	130.21
Operating charges	(6.57)	(6.39)	(6.02)
Return after operating charges	33.08	(21.59)	124.19
Distributions	(9.46)	(5.84)	(3.68)
Retained distributions on accumulation shares	9.46	5.84	3.68
Closing net asset value per share	614.00	580.92	602.51
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.47	(0.52)	0.67

PERFORMANCE

Return after charges	5.69%	(3.58)%	25.96%
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OTHER INFORMATION

Closing net asset value (£'000)	163,614	120,184	45,669
Closing number of shares	26,646,923	20,688,422	7,579,766
Operating charges	1.08%	1.07%	1.08%
Direct transaction costs	0.08%	0.09%	0.12%

PRICES

Highest share price	638.80	616.85	616.67
Lowest share price	567.40	580.18	469.61

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

FUND INFORMATION continued

Comparative Tables continued

C INCOME SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	15.09.23 pence per share	15.09.22 pence per share	15.09.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	491.87	515.26	411.62
Return before operating charges*	33.58	(12.95)	111.98
Operating charges	(6.59)	(6.48)	(6.13)
Return after operating charges	26.99	(19.43)	105.85
Distributions	(6.97)	(3.96)	(2.21)
Closing net asset value per share	511.89	491.87	515.26
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.39	(0.45)	0.57

PERFORMANCE

Return after charges	5.49%	(3.77)%	25.72%
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OTHER INFORMATION

Closing net asset value (£'000)	11,549	12,377	26,977
Closing number of shares	2,256,136	2,516,424	5,235,626
Operating charges	1.28%	1.27%	1.28%
Direct transaction costs	0.08%	0.09%	0.12%

PRICES

Highest share price	540.44	526.77	529.67
Lowest share price	480.40	495.36	404.10

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

FUND INFORMATION continued

Comparative Tables continued

C ACCUMULATION SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	15.09.23 pence per share	15.09.22 pence per share	15.09.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	544.45	565.81	450.09
Return before operating charges*	37.16	(14.25)	122.42
Operating charges	(7.29)	(7.11)	(6.70)
Return after operating charges	29.87	(21.36)	115.72
Distributions	(7.71)	(4.35)	(2.41)
Retained distributions on accumulation shares	7.71	4.35	2.41
Closing net asset value per share	574.32	544.45	565.81
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.44	(0.49)	0.63

PERFORMANCE

Return after charges	5.49%	(3.78)%	25.71%
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OTHER INFORMATION

Closing net asset value (£'000)	46,851	49,492	85,567
Closing number of shares	8,157,688	9,090,177	15,122,915
Operating charges	1.28%	1.27%	1.28%
Direct transaction costs	0.08%	0.09%	0.12%

PRICES

Highest share price	598.19	578.44	579.16
Lowest share price	531.74	543.94	441.85

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
ACD’S REPORT continued
FUND INFORMATION continued

Fund Performance to 15 September 2023 (%)

	1 year	3 years	5 years
WS Ruffer Equity & General Fund	4.39	27.48	26.37
IA Flexible Investment sector ¹	2.23	12.68	20.53

¹ Source: Morningstar Direct.

The performance of the Fund is based on the published price per C 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 the above performance being calculated on the latest published price prior to the year end, rather than the year end return after operating charges.

Details of the distributions per share for the year are shown in the Distribution Table on pages 59 and 60.

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 RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

as at 15 September 2023

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	15.09.23 %
	DEBT SECURITIES – 13.39% (15.09.22 – 0.52%)		
¥1,500,000,000	Japan Government Bond 0.005% 1/11/2024	8,190	3.61
£1,000,000	Petrofac 9.75% 15/11/2026	635	0.28
£11,000,000	UK Treasury 0.125% 31/1/2024	10,796	4.75
£11,500,000	UK Treasury 0.25% 31/1/2025	10,800	4.75
		<u>30,421</u>	<u>13.39</u>
	UNITED KINGDOM – 32.12% (15.09.22 – 31.49%)		
547,610	4D Pharma ^{1,2}	–	–
100,000	4D Pharma 25/2/2025 Warrants ²	–	–
250,000	Allfunds	1,118	0.49
360,150	Ashmore	693	0.31
1,000,000	Aurora ^{2,4}	2,080	0.92
600,000	Babcock International	2,341	1.03
240,000	BAE Systems	2,522	1.11
975,253	Balfour Beatty	3,242	1.43
465,000	BP	2,433	1.07
299,883	Breedon ¹	1,036	0.46
160,000	British American Tobacco	4,323	1.90
630,000	BT	737	0.32
1,000,000	Castelnau ^{2,4}	700	0.31
150,335	Castings	502	0.22
975,000	City Pub ¹	839	0.37
1,628,124	ConvaTec	3,647	1.61
500,000	Conygar ¹	488	0.21
628,796	Domino's Pizza	2,480	1.09
610,000	Essentra	887	0.39
24,000	Exor	1,781	0.78
579,012	Hunting	1,720	0.76
5,000	Intertek	212	0.09
280,000	James Fisher & Sons	938	0.41
272,287	Jet2 ¹	3,022	1.33

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued

as at 15 September 2023

		Value £'000	15.09.23 %
	Holding		
	Portfolio of Investments		
733,178	LSL Property Services	1,980	0.87
450,000	Mobius Investment Trust ^{2,4}	610	0.27
811,865	Morgan Advanced Materials	2,034	0.90
25,714	NatWest	61	0.03
250,000	NCC	250	0.11
2,010,701	Real Estate Investors ¹	563	0.25
55,012	Reckitt Benckiser	3,170	1.40
925,000	S4 Capital	883	0.39
3,420,646	Science ¹	13,682	6.02
1,650,000	Serco	2,515	1.11
647,388	SIG	238	0.10
569,000	Thruvision ¹	159	0.07
1,840,647	TVC ³	114	0.05
85,625	Unilever	3,514	1.55
115,671	Vertu Motors ¹	76	0.03
3,100,000	Vodafone	2,474	1.09
398,398	Vp	2,012	0.89
1,016,665	Zinc Media ¹	864	0.38
	TOTAL UNITED KINGDOM	72,940	32.12
	 CONTINENTAL EUROPE – 19.91% (15.09.22 – 19.79%)		
122,478	Aegean Airlines	1,271	0.56
17,000	Anheuser-Busch Inbev <i>ADR</i>	780	0.34
104,248	Autohellas	1,179	0.52
810,000	Banco Santander	2,433	1.07
82,904	Bayer	3,525	1.55
310,000	Bolloré	1,418	0.62
62,000	Danone	2,870	1.26
25,000	Dassault Aviation	3,881	1.71
12,000	Eurofins Scientific	571	0.25
20,000	Fourlis	73	0.03

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued

as at 15 September 2023

		Value £'000	15.09.23 %
	Holding		
	Portfolio of Investments		
70,900	Groupe Bruxelles Lambert	4,521	1.99
31,000	Heineken	2,267	1.00
66,366	Hellenic Exchange	279	0.12
120,000	JDE Peet's	2,592	1.14
65,728	Lamda Development	348	0.15
112,032	Magforce ³	–	–
235,000	Orange	2,236	0.98
3,065,084	Prosegur Cash	1,590	0.70
720,000	Prosegur Seguridad	970	0.43
98,082	Prosus	2,497	1.10
17,000	Roche	3,995	1.76
110,000	Safe Bulkers	280	0.12
159,971	Titan Cement	2,434	1.07
52,749	Titan Cement International	786	0.35
350,000	Vivendi	2,476	1.09
	TOTAL CONTINENTAL EUROPE	45,272	19.91
	NORTH AMERICA – 22.32% (15.09.22 – 25.45%)		
50,000	Bank of America	1,163	0.51
140,000	Barrick Gold	1,878	0.83
5,000	Berkshire Hathaway 'B'	1,484	0.65
22,000	Chevron	2,955	1.30
576,780	Conduit	2,607	1.15
594,811	Coty	5,710	2.51
15,972	Dow	694	0.31
20,000	Dril-Quip	466	0.21
40,000	DuPont de Nemours	2,406	1.06
35,000	ExxonMobil	3,296	1.45
2,200	Fairfax Financial	1,494	0.66
28,702	General Electric	2,674	1.18
55,000	General Motors	1,505	0.66
10,000	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	1,200	0.53

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued

as at 15 September 2023

	Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	15.09.23 %
	12,500	M&T Bank	1,303	0.57
	1,300	Markel	1,595	0.70
	3,000	Martin Marietta Materials	1,028	0.45
	29,500	Newmont	960	0.42
	30,000	Noble	1,283	0.56
	100,000	NOW	930	0.41
	142,347	Pfizer	3,908	1.72
	42,000	Philip Morris International	3,246	1.43
	23,000	PNC Financial Services	2,344	1.03
	135,076	Suncor Energy	3,819	1.68
	22,000	Wells Fargo	762	0.34
		TOTAL NORTH AMERICA	50,710	22.32
		SOUTH AMERICA – 2.14% (15.09.22 – 1.26%)		
	1,538,500	AdvancedAdvT	1,262	0.56
	152,142	Arcos Dorados	1,249	0.55
	27,000	FEMSA ADR	2,340	1.03
		TOTAL SOUTH AMERICA	4,851	2.14
		JAPAN – 0.89% (15.09.22 – 1.73%)		
	17,964	Avalorn Milestone Japan Value ⁴	2,028	0.89
		ASIA PACIFIC (EX JAPAN) – 0.83% (15.09.22 – 1.10%)		
	900,000	Fidelity China Special Situations Investment Trust ^{2,4}	1,895	0.83
		AUSTRALIA – 0.53% (15.09.22 – 0.79%)		
	1,612,409	RPMGlobal	1,193	0.53
		GOLD – 4.39% (15.09.22 – 1.45%)		
	330,000	iShares Physical Gold ETC ⁵	9,973	4.39

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued

as at 15 September 2023

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	15.09.23 %
	OPTIONS – 0.58% (15.09.22 – 1.65%)		
580	Dax Put 15,100 12/2023	419	0.19
1	Dax Put 15,100 03/2024	1	–
5	FTSE 100 Put 7,000 12/2023	1	–
1	FTSE 100 Put 7,100 12/2023	–	–
201	FTSE 100 Put 7,500 12/2023	165	0.07
1	FTSE 100 Put 7,500 03/2024	1	–
157	S&P 500 Put 4,200 12/2023	524	0.23
1	S&P 500 Put 4,200 03/2024	6	–
5,000	Wisdom Tree FTSE 250 1xDaily Short	193	0.09
	TOTAL OPTIONS	1,310	0.58
	FORWARD CURRENCY CONTRACTS – (0.22)% (15.09.22 – (0.91)%)		
CAD(768,500)	Vs £458,579 (expiry 15/12/2023) ⁶	–	–
CHF(859,200)	Vs £769,203 (expiry 15/12/2023) ⁶	(11)	–
€(49,632,250)	Vs £42,812,779 (expiry 15/12/2023) ⁶	(57)	(0.03)
US\$(31,627,950)	Vs £25,079,056 (expiry 15/12/2023) ⁶	(435)	(0.19)
	TOTAL FORWARD CURRENCY CONTRACTS	(503)	(0.22)

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
ACD'S REPORT continued
PORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued
as at 15 September 2023

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	15.09.23 %
	Portfolio of investments ⁷	220,090	96.88
	Net other assets	7,097	3.12
	Net assets	227,187	100.00

The investments have been valued in accordance with note 1(F) of the Accounting Policies and are ordinary shares listed on a regulated market unless stated otherwise.

¹ Quoted on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM).
² Closed end fund.
³ Unlisted security.
⁴ Collective investment scheme.
⁵ Exchange traded commodity.
⁶ Counterparty: BNY Mellon.
⁷ Includes investment liabilities.

Definition:
ADR – American Depositary Receipts.

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
ACD'S REPORT continued
SUMMARY OF MATERIAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES
for the year ended 15 September 2023

Total purchases for the year £'000 (note 16)	135,882	Total sales for the year £'000 (note 16)	94,017
	Cost		Proceeds
Major purchases	£'000	Major sales	£'000
UK Treasury 0.75% 22/7/2023	21,185	UK Treasury 0.75% 22/7/2023	21,428
UK Treasury 0.125% 31/1/2024	10,677	Titan Cement International	14,200
UK Treasury 0.25% 31/1/2025	10,621	Alleghany	4,512
Japan Government Bond 0.005% 1/11/2024	8,544	Attraqt	2,840
iShares Physical Gold	7,174	Conduit	2,344
Titan Cement International	6,400	Laboratorios Farmacéuticos Rovi	2,255
Roche	3,993	Ashmore	2,121
PNC Financial Services	3,697	Jet2	2,065
Suncor Energy	3,448	JPMorgan Chase & Co.	2,007
JDE Peet's	3,429	General Electric	1,904

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

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

for the year ended 15 September 2023

	Notes	£'000	15.09.23 £'000	£'000	15.09.22 £'000
Income:					
Net capital gains/(losses)	3		7,730		(8,976)
Revenue	4	6,166		4,142	
Expenses	5	(2,569)		(2,281)	
Interest payable and similar charges	7	(3)		(1)	
Net revenue before taxation		3,594		1,860	
Taxation	6	(268)		(138)	
Net revenue after taxation			3,326		1,722
Total return before distributions			11,056		(7,254)
Distributions	8		(3,407)		(1,776)
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities			7,649		(9,030)

STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS

for the year ended 15 September 2023

	£'000	15.09.23 £'000	£'000	15.09.22 £'000
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders		194,868		175,030
Amounts receivable on issue of shares	44,085		51,835	
Amounts payable on redemption of shares	(22,564)		(24,605)	
		21,521		27,230
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities		7,649		(9,030)
Retained distributions on Accumulation shares		3,149		1,638
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders		227,187		194,868

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
BALANCE SHEET
as at 15 September 2023

	Notes	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
ASSETS			
Fixed assets			
Investments		220,593	166,451
Current assets			
Debtors	9	1,098	1,866
Cash and bank balances	10	6,975	30,979
Total assets		<u>228,666</u>	<u>199,296</u>
LIABILITIES			
Investment liabilities		(503)	(2,142)
Creditors			
Distribution payable	11	(238)	(146)
Other creditors	11	(738)	(2,140)
Total liabilities		<u>(1,479)</u>	<u>(4,428)</u>
Net assets attributable to shareholders		<u>227,187</u>	<u>194,868</u>

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 15 September 2023

1. Accounting Policies

The accounting policies described on pages 18 to 23 have been applied to the financial statements of the Fund in the current and prior year.

2. Distribution Policies

The distribution policies described on page 23 have been applied to the financial statements of the Fund in the current and prior year.

3. Net Capital Gains/(Losses)

The net capital gains/(losses) during the year comprise:

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Non-derivative securities	14,254	(1,750)
Derivative contracts	(8,977)	(1,524)
Forward currency contracts	3,267	(5,929)
Transaction charges	(6)	(3)
Currency (losses)/gains	(808)	230
Net capital gains/(losses)	<u>7,730</u>	<u>(8,976)</u>

4. Revenue

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Non-taxable dividends	4,862	4,001
Taxable dividends	–	18
UK property income distributions	47	52
Interest on debt securities	730	19
Bank interest	522	52
Margin interest	5	–
Total revenue	<u>6,166</u>	<u>4,142</u>

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

5. Expenses

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Payable to the ACD, associates of the ACD and agents of either of them:		
Annual Management Charge	2,386	2,149
Typesetting costs	4	3
Registration fees	67	58
	2,457	2,210
Payable to the Depositary, associates of the Depositary and agents of either of them:		
Depositary's fees	55	52
Safe custody and other bank charges	49	11
	104	63
Other expenses:		
Publication costs	7	6
Legal and professional fees	1	2
	8	8
Total expenses	2,569	2,281

The Investment Manager's fees and expenses (plus VAT thereon) for providing investment management services are paid by the ACD out of its remuneration.

From 1 March 2015 the ACD pays the legal and professional fees in relation to KIID production costs and audit fees of the Fund on a discretionary basis. Audit fees for the current year are £12,600 plus VAT (15.09.22: £11,350 plus VAT).

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

6. Taxation

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
a) Analysis of charge for the year		
Corporation tax at 20%	–	–
Corporation tax prior year adjustment	–	(22)
Overseas tax	268	160
Current tax charge	268	138
Deferred tax – origination and reversal of timing differences (note 6c)	–	–
Total taxation (note 6b)	268	138

b) Factors affecting the tax charge for the year

The tax assessed for the year differs from the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK for an authorised fund (20%) (15.09.22: 20%). The difference is explained below:

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Net revenue before taxation	3,594	1,860
Corporation tax at 20%	719	372
Effects of:		
Non-taxable dividends	(972)	(800)
Offshore income gains	43	(53)
Prior year adjustment	–	(22)
Unutilised excess management expenses	210	481
Corporation tax charge	–	(22)
Overseas tax	268	160
Total tax charge (note 6a)	268	138

c) Deferred tax

At the year end there is a potential deferred tax asset of £5,132,000 (15.09.22: £4,922,000) in relation to surplus management expenses. It is unlikely that the Fund will generate sufficient taxable profits in the future to utilise this amount and, therefore, no deferred tax asset has been recognised in the current or prior year.

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

7. Interest Payable and Similar Charges

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Interest payable	3	1
Total interest payable and similar charges	3	1

8. Distributions

The distributions take account of revenue received on the issue of shares and revenue deducted on redemption of shares, and comprise:

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Final	3,387	1,784
	3,387	1,784
Add: Revenue deducted on redemption of shares	114	101
Deduct: Revenue received on issue of shares	(94)	(109)
Net distributions for the year	3,407	1,776

Details of the distributions per share are set out in the table on pages 59 and 60.

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Distributions represented by:		
Net revenue after taxation	3,326	1,722
Allocations to capital:		
Expenses, net of tax relief	62	–
Equalisation on conversions ¹	19	54
Net distributions for the year	3,407	1,776

¹ Where an investor converts to a class with a higher income yield, the investor will receive an equalisation as if they had held the new class throughout the period from the last distribution to the conversion date. The yield differential at the point of conversion is an equalisation which will be offset by capital erosion for the converted investor.

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

9. Debtors

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Amounts receivable for issue of shares	–	46
Sales awaiting settlement	813	–
Accrued revenue:		
Non-taxable dividends	158	165
Interest from debt securities	32	43
	190	208
Taxation recoverable:		
Overseas withholding tax	95	123
Amounts due from brokers	–	1,489
Total debtors	1,098	1,866

10. Cash and Bank Balances

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Bank balances	6,975	30,979
Total cash and bank balances	6,975	30,979

11. Creditors

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Distribution payable	238	146
Other Creditors		
Amounts payable for redemption of shares	146	61
Purchases awaiting settlement	188	1,789

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Accrued expenses:		
Amounts payable to the ACD, associates of the ACD and agents of either of them:		
Annual Management Charge	303	271
Typesetting costs	3	–
Registration fees	9	7
	315	278
Amounts payable to the Depositary, associates of the Depositary and agents of either of them:		
Depositary's fees	7	7
Transaction charges	–	1
Safe custody and other bank charges	14	4
	21	12
Amounts due to brokers	68	–
Total other creditors	738	2,140

12. Related Party Transactions

The Annual Management Charge payable to Waystone Management (UK) Limited ('WMUK') ('the ACD'), registration fees payable to Link Fund Administrators Limited and typesetting costs payable to Link Alternative Fund Administrators Limited (both companies are associates of the ACD) are disclosed in note 5 and amounts due at the year end are disclosed in note 11.

The aggregate monies received by the ACD through the issue of shares and paid on redemption of shares are disclosed in the Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders on page 42 and amounts due at the year end are disclosed in notes 9 and 11.

WMUK and its associates (including other authorised investment funds managed by WMUK or its associates) held 2,550,291 (15.09.22: 1,993,925) of the Fund's shares at the balance sheet date.

A shareholder may be able to exercise significant influence over the financial and operating policies of the Fund and as such is deemed to be a related party. At the balance sheet date the following shareholders held in excess of 20% of the shares in issue of the Fund:

RBC IS GFP Ruffer	21.40% (15.09.22: 31.99%)
The Bank of New York (Nominees) Limited	52.16% (15.09.22: 40.44%)

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

13. Contingent Liabilities and Commitments

There are no contingent liabilities or unrecorded outstanding commitments (15.09.22: none).

14. Shares in Issue

	O Income ¹	O Accumulation ¹	I Income
Annual Management Charge	0.00%	0.00%	1.00%
Opening shares in issue	412,913	1,359,364	741,090
Issues	910	4,553	137,012
Redemptions	(1,287)	(44,025)	(65,918)
Conversions	(412,536)	(1,319,892)	203,344
Closing shares in issue	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>1,015,528</u>

	I Accumulation	C Income	C Accumulation
Annual Management Charge	1.00%	1.20%	1.20%
Opening shares in issue	20,688,422	2,516,424	9,090,177
Issues	4,747,824	374,755	2,217,336
Redemptions	(972,648)	(592,831)	(2,320,961)
Conversions	2,183,325	(42,212)	(828,864)
Closing shares in issue	<u>26,646,923</u>	<u>2,256,136</u>	<u>8,157,688</u>

15. Risk Management Policies

In pursuing the investment objective a number of financial instruments are held which may comprise securities and other investments, cash balances and debtors and creditors that arise directly from operations. Derivatives, such as futures or forward currency contracts, may be utilised for Efficient Portfolio Management (including hedging) and investment purposes.

¹ O Income and O Accumulation share classes converted into either the C or I share classes on 16 November 2022.

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

The main risks from the Fund's holding of financial instruments, together with the ACD's policy for managing these risks, are set out below:

The ACD has in place a Risk Management Policy and Procedures Document ('RMPPD') that sets out the risks that may impact a fund and how the ACD seeks, where appropriate, to manage, monitor and mitigate those risks, and in particular those risks associated with the use of derivatives. The RMPPD sets out both the framework and the risk mitigations operated by the ACD in managing the identified risks of the Fund. The ACD requires that the appointed Investment Manager to the Fund has in place its own governance structure, policies and procedures that are commensurate with its regulatory obligations and the risks posed by the fund managed.

(A) CREDIT RISK

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty may be unable or unwilling to make payment or fulfil contractual obligations. This may be in terms of an actual default or by deterioration in a counterparty's credit quality.

Certain transactions in the securities that the Fund enters into expose it to the risk that the counterparty will not deliver the investment for a purchase, or cash for a sale after the Fund has fulfilled its obligations. As part of its due diligence process, the ACD undertakes a review of the controls operated over counterparties by the Investment Manager, including initial and ongoing due diligence and business volumes placed with each counterparty. In cases which are dependent on the counterparty settling at the transaction's maturity date, the ACD has policies in place which set out the minimum credit quality expected of a market counterparty or deposit taker at the outset of the transaction.

The bond investment held is exposed to credit risk which reflects the ability of the issuer to meet its obligations. The ACD monitors the credit rating of bond holdings.

There were forward currency contracts held at the balance sheet date. Details of individual contracts are disclosed separately in the Portfolio Statement and the total position by counterparty at the balance sheet date was as follows:

15.09.23 Counterparty ¹	Forward currency contracts £'000	Net cash collateral pledged £'000
BNY Mellon	(503)	-

¹ Listed options are excluded.

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

15.09.22 Counterparty	Forward currency contracts £'000	Net cash collateral pledged £'000
BNY Mellon	(1,771)	-

(B) INTEREST RATE RISK

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of the Fund's investments will fluctuate as a result of interest rate changes. The value of fixed interest securities may be affected by changes in interest rates, either globally or locally. Changes in the rate of return in one asset class may influence the valuation basis of other classes. The amount of revenue receivable from floating rate investments and bank balances or payable on bank overdrafts will be affected by fluctuations in interest rates. Investment in collective investment schemes may expose the Fund to indirect interest rate risk to the extent that they may invest in interest bearing securities, the returns from which will be affected by fluctuations in interest rates.

The Fund takes on interest rate risk within its investment portfolio where the ACD and Investment Manager believe that the expected return compensates for the overall risk. The ACD and Investment Manager continue to monitor the level of interest rate risk posed by the Fund's underlying investments on a regular basis. As the Fund has no significant direct exposure to interest rate risk, no sensitivity analysis has been presented.

The table below shows the interest rate risk profile:

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Fixed rate investments	30,421	1,022
Investments on which interest is not paid	190,172	165,429
Investment liabilities on which interest is not paid	(503)	(2,142)
Total investments	220,090	164,309

Investments on which interest is not paid include equities, collective investment schemes, options and forward currency contracts.

(C) FOREIGN CURRENCY RISK

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the Sterling value of investments will fluctuate as a result of exchange rate movements. Assets denominated in currencies other than Sterling will provide direct exposure to currency risk as a consequence of the movement in foreign exchange rates when calculating the Sterling equivalent value. Forward currency contracts are employed by the Investment Manager, where deemed appropriate, to mitigate the foreign exchange risk. Investment in collective investment schemes may provide indirect exposure to currency risk as a consequence of the movement in foreign exchange rates.

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

The table below shows the direct foreign currency risk profile:

	15.09.23 Gross £'000	15.09.23 Hedged £'000	15.09.23 Net £'000
Currency:			
Australian dollars	1,193	–	1,193
Canadian dollars	5,348	(459)	4,889
Danish krone	29	–	29
Euros	43,817	(42,870)	947
Japanese yen	10,608	–	10,608
Swiss francs	3,995	(780)	3,215
US dollars	58,968	(25,514)	33,454
	<u>123,958</u>	<u>(69,623)</u>	<u>54,335</u>
Pounds sterling	<u>103,732</u>	<u>69,120</u>	<u>172,852</u>
Net assets	<u>227,690</u>	<u>(503)</u>	<u>227,187</u>

	15.09.22 Gross £'000	15.09.22 Hedged £'000	15.09.22 Net £'000
Currency:			
Australian dollars	1,537	–	1,537
Canadian dollars	1,349	(507)	842
Danish krone	68	–	68
Euros	36,341	(25,961)	10,380
Japanese yen	3,376	–	3,376
Swedish krona	92	–	92
Swiss francs	1,550	(780)	770
US dollars	51,822	(29,181)	22,641
	<u>96,135</u>	<u>(56,429)</u>	<u>39,706</u>
Pounds sterling	<u>100,504</u>	<u>54,658</u>	<u>155,162</u>
Net assets	<u>196,639</u>	<u>(1,771)</u>	<u>194,868</u>

A 5% change in the pounds Sterling exchange rate against all other currencies, assuming all other factors remained the same, would have an impact of £2,717,000 on the net assets of the Fund (15.09.22: £1,985,000).

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

(D) LEVERAGE

As at 15 September 2023, leverage under the commitment approach was 10.43% (15.09.22: 24.95%).

(E) LIQUIDITY RISK

The main liability of the Fund is the redemption of any shares that investors want to sell. Investments may have to be sold to fund such redemptions should insufficient cash be held at the bank to meet this obligation. The ACD monitors the liquidity profile of the Fund daily.

In assessing the liquidity profile of the Fund, the ACD assesses how much of the Fund can be realised in one and five days, under normal and stressed market conditions, and the impact this would have on the overall subsequent liquidity profile.

In assessing the liquidity of a company's shares, the ACD utilises the lower of the 5 and 20 day average market volume of that company's shares. An in depth review takes place by assessing the liquidity profile of the Fund against a 25% market participation of the average daily volume.

Based on this analysis 80.17% of the portfolio can be liquidated within 5 days and 88.72% within 21 working days (15.09.22: 73.82% within 5 days and 80.22% within 21 days). Given this and the ACD's understanding of the investor base, it is considered that the liquidity profile of the Fund is appropriate.

All financial liabilities are payable in one year or less, or on demand.

(F) MARKET PRICE RISK

Market price risk is the risk that the value of the Fund's financial instruments will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices caused by factors other than interest rate or foreign currency movement. Market price risk arises primarily from uncertainty about the future prices of financial instruments that the Fund holds.

Market price risk represents the potential loss the Fund may suffer through holding market positions in the face of price movements. The Fund's investment portfolio is exposed to price fluctuations, which are monitored by the ACD in pursuance of the investment objective and policy. The risk is generally regarded as consisting of two elements – stock specific risk and market risk. Adhering to investment guidelines and avoiding excessive exposure to one particular issuer can limit stock specific risk. Subject to compliance with the investment objective, spreading exposure across a broad range of global stocks can mitigate market risk.

A 5% increase in the value of the Fund's portfolio, excluding forward currency contracts would have the effect of increasing the return and net assets by £11,030,000 (15.09.22: £8,304,000). A 5% decrease would have an equal and opposite effect.

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

(G) DERIVATIVES

The Investment Manager has employed derivatives for the purposes of hedging with the aim of the risk profile of the Fund, or reducing costs, or generating additional capital or income, in accordance with Efficient Portfolio Management (EPM). Due to the relatively simple derivative strategies that used by the Fund, the ACD monitors their risk using the commitment approach. The leverage, as using the approach, cannot exceed 100%.

Equity index put options and spreads – During the period the portfolio held put options on equity indices to protect the portfolio from the risk of a fall in value of equity markets.

During the year the Investment Manager has used forward currency contracts. The intention in using currency contracts is to reduce the risk profile of the Fund by managing the exposure of the Fund currency exchange risk and leave the Fund primarily exposed to the underlying market risk of investments. Therefore, where the value of investments falls due to currency movement, the forward currency generate a gain and vice versa.

Refer to note 3 for the impact of derivatives and forward currency contracts in the year and to the Portfolio Statement for the position of derivatives and forward currency contracts held at the year end.

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

16. Portfolio Transaction Costs

15.09.23	Purchases/ sales before transaction costs £'000	Commissions £'000	Taxes £'000	Gross purchases/ net sales £'000
Ordinary shares	77,538	24	120	77,682
Collective investment schemes	7,172	1	–	7,173
Debt securities	51,027	–	–	51,027
Purchases total	135,737	25	120	135,882
Transaction cost % of purchases total		0.02%	0.09%	
Transaction cost % of average NAV		0.01%	0.06%	
Ordinary shares	71,388	(23)	(4)	71,361
Collective investment schemes	959	–	–	959
Debt securities	21,697	–	–	21,697
Sales total	94,044	(23)	(4)	94,017
Transaction cost % of sales total		0.02%	–	
Transaction cost % of average NAV		0.01%	–	

Average portfolio dealing spread at 15.09.23 is 0.47% (15.09.22: 1.16%).

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

15.09.22	Purchases/ sales before transaction costs £'000	Commissions £'000	Taxes £'000	Gross purchases/ net sales £'000
Ordinary shares	68,157	20	108	68,285
Collective investment schemes	5,793	2	13	5,808
Debt securities	1,023	–	–	1,023
Purchases total	74,973	22	121	75,116
Transaction cost % of purchases total		0.03%	0.16%	
Transaction cost % of average NAV		0.01%	0.06%	
Ordinary shares	57,832	(23)	(2)	57,807
Collective investment schemes	4,545	(1)	–	4,544
Debt securities	2,150	–	–	2,150
Sales total	64,527	(24)	(2)	64,501
Transaction cost % of sales total		0.04%	–	
Transaction cost % of average NAV		0.01%	–	

The collective investment schemes include closed end funds and exchange traded commodities.

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

17. Fair Value Hierarchy

Investments are categorised into the following levels based on their fair value measurement:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted price in an active market for an identical instrument;

Level 2: Valuation techniques using observable inputs other than quoted prices within Level 1;

Level 3: Valuation techniques using unobservable inputs (see note 1(F) of the Accounting Policies).

15.09.23	Level 1 £'000	Level 2 £'000	Level 3 £'000	Total £'000
Investment assets	213,297	5,920	1,376	220,593
Investment liabilities	–	(503)	–	(503)

15.09.22	Level 1 £'000	Level 2 £'000	Level 3 £'000	Total £'000
Investment assets	162,186	4,163	102	166,451
Investment liabilities	–	(2,142)	–	(2,142)

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

DISTRIBUTION TABLE

for the year ended 15 September 2023 – in pence per share

EQUALISATION

Equalisation applies only to shares purchased during the distribution period (Group 2 shares – the applicable distribution periods for each distribution are shown below). It represents the accrued revenue included in the purchase price of the shares. After averaging it is returned with the distribution as a capital repayment. It is not liable to Income Tax but must be deducted from the cost of the shares for Capital Gains Tax purposes. Where there is no distribution at interim, the final distribution is deemed to run for the whole year.

Group 2	Final
From	16.09.22
To	15.09.23

O INCOME SHARES¹

There were no interim distributions for O Income shares in the current or prior year.

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Payable 15.11.23	Paid 15.11.22
Group 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.3618
Group 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.3618

O ACCUMULATION SHARES¹

There were no interim distributions for O Accumulation shares in the current or prior year.

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocation 15.11.23	Allocated 15.11.22
Group 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.5627
Group 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	2.5627

I INCOME SHARES

There were no interim distributions for I Income shares in the current or prior year.

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Payable 15.11.23	Paid 15.11.22
Group 1	7.9680	–	7.9680	4.9693
Group 2	7.3766	0.5914	7.9680	4.9693

¹ O Income and O Accumulation share classes converted into either the C or I share classes on 16 November 2022.

WS RUFFER EQUITY & GENERAL FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

DISTRIBUTION TABLE continued

I ACCUMULATION SHARES

There were no interim distributions for I Accumulation shares in the current or prior year.

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocation 15.11.23	Allocated 15.11.22
Group 1	9.4550	–	9.4550	5.8370
Group 2	7.8149	1.6401	9.4550	5.8370

C INCOME SHARES

There were no interim distributions for C Income shares in the current or prior year.

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Payable 15.11.23	Paid 15.11.22
Group 1	6.9686	–	6.9686	3.9592
Group 2	6.3633	0.6053	6.9686	3.9592

C ACCUMULATION SHARES

There were no interim distributions for C Accumulation shares in the current or prior year.

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocation 15.11.23	Allocated 15.11.22
Group 1	7.7124	–	7.7124	4.3491
Group 2	7.2969	0.4155	7.7124	4.3491

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND ACD'S REPORT

for the year ended 15 September 2023

Important Information

Refer to the 'Important Information' section on pages 6 and 7.

Investment Objective and Policy

The investment objective of WS Ruffer European Fund ('the Fund') is to seek to achieve capital growth over the longer term (at least seven years), after all costs and charges have been taken.

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

The investment policy of the Fund is to invest both directly and indirectly at least 70% of its total assets by value in equity or equity related securities of European (including United Kingdom) companies. These are companies that are listed or incorporated or domiciled in Europe, including the United Kingdom. As part of the equity exposure, the Fund may invest in Investment Trusts.

The Fund may also invest up to 30% of its total assets by value in investment grade and non-investment grade (including non-rated) bonds (corporate and government), treasury bills, commodities (such as precious metals), money market instruments, deposits and cash. From time to time, the Fund may invest up to 20% in securities, as referenced above (including equity or equity related securities), which are listed or incorporated or domiciled outside of Europe (including emerging markets).

The Fund may gain exposure to these asset classes directly by investing in securities issued by companies and governments, and indirectly by investing in other permissible transferable securities and collective investment schemes and derivatives. Indirect investments may include instruments managed or advised by the ACD or the Investment Manager or their associates. Exposure to commodities will be through indirect investments only. For reasons such as operational efficiency and market access, the Fund may access a specific investment indirectly by holding a structured product. Structured products are a type of investment where the return depends on the performance of a specific financial market or specific asset(s).

Investments in collective investment schemes is limited to 10% of total assets by value.

The Fund can invest across different industry sectors and market capitalisations without limitation.

Derivatives may be used for both investment and efficient portfolio management purposes, including hedging. Derivative usage may be used to indirectly gain exposure to currencies, interest rates and volatility markets but otherwise will be limited to contracts relating to the asset classes noted above. This may include structured products.

The limits referenced above will not apply under extraordinary market conditions. Examples of extraordinary market conditions include economic, political unrest or instability and world events leading to high market valuations, market instability or any events which give rise to high downside risk. During such periods, the Fund may temporarily invest up to 75% of its total assets in cash, deposits, treasury bills, government bonds or money market instruments.

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND ACD'S REPORT continued

Investment Objective and Policy continued

The Fund is in the course of being wound up and is no longer available for investment.

Benchmark

The Fund's comparator benchmark is the FTSE Developed Europe Total Return (£) Index.

The Fund's performance may be compared against the following index (referred to as 'comparator benchmark'): FTSE Developed Europe Total Return Index. The ACD believes this is an appropriate comparator benchmark given the investment objective and policy of the Fund. The ACD considers it may assist investors in evaluating the Fund's performance against European equity returns. The Fund is not constrained by the comparator benchmark and may take positions that differ significantly from the comparator benchmark, as a result the performance of the Fund may differ from the comparator benchmark.

With effect from 5 July 2023, as the Fund commenced wind-up, the requirement to meet the objective of the Fund and its returns compared to the comparator benchmark fell away.

WAYSTONE MANAGEMENT (UK) LIMITED

ACD of WS Ruffer European Fund
12 January 2024

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

for the year ended 15 September 2023

15 September 2022 – 15 March 2023

The period under review was an exposition of Mr Market's violent mood swings. There were four acts. *First Act*: overwhelming pessimism. In late September, European equities were institutionally untouchable due to a looming consumer and industrial recession caused by record energy prices. *Second Act*: relief rally. Equities staged a rally through the end of 2022 built on glimmers of hope and unwind in extreme pessimism. There was anticipation of inflation rolling over (providing an end in sight to interest rate rises) and anticipation of easing COVID-lockdowns in China reigniting demand. *Third Act*: Goldilocks. In January a belief in a 'soft landing' grew, averting the predicted recession in 2023. The market believed that growth would be resilient *and* interest rates would fall, a potent combination for risk assets. *Fourth Act*: Liquidation Crisis. The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank in March (caused by a conventional 'run' on deposits) has raised concerns of a systemic problem with the financial system, damaging the Goldilocks thesis and stock market performance.

Considering these cross currents, returns were balanced across the portfolio. Our stable of German large-capitalisation companies (a country considered at the epicentre of the energy crisis) contributed 3.6% to performance. Otherwise, the stocks which had performed weakest into the period rebounded the strongest, with our eCommerce companies contributing 2.5% to performance. The largest detractors to performance were more idiosyncratic. Ceres Power and Arcticzymes combined detracted 1.2% from performance. These are high growth 'concept' stocks with enormous disruptive potential and attractive underlying economic models. The shares have been weak as catalysts have been pushed back, but we remain constructive on a longer-term horizon. The largest detractor was Software AG, which contributed -1.3% as the market disliked continued earnings downgrades and weaker medium-term guidance. We have been increasing our stake and consider the downside protected as it is a credible acquisition candidate.

15 March 2023 – 5 July 2023

In March 2023, the decision was made in to close the Fund. The Fund was gradually liquidated to cash over this period and the final NAV date was 5 July 2023.

RUFFER LLP

Investment Manager
31 October 2023

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

FUND INFORMATION

Risk and Reward Profile

As the Fund is in the course of being wound up, the Risk and Reward Profile is no longer reported.

Comparative Tables

As the Fund is now in the process of an orderly wind-up, no Comparative Table has been presented.

Fund Performance

As the Fund is in course of being wound up, the Fund Performance is no longer reported.

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 RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

as at 15 September 2023

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	15.09.23 %
	EQUITIES – 0.00% (15.09.22 – 90.49%)		
	CONTINENTAL EUROPE – 0.00% (15.09.22 – 79.80%)		
	BELGIUM – 0.00% (15.09.22 – 4.49%)	–	–
	FINLAND – 0.00% (15.09.22 – 8.89%)	–	–
	FRANCE – 0.00% (15.09.22 – 7.23%)	–	–
	GERMANY – 0.00% (15.09.22 – 24.41%)	–	–
	NETHERLANDS – 0.00% (15.09.22 – 2.90%)	–	–
	NORWAY – 0.00% (15.09.22 – 8.13%)	–	–
80,000	SPAIN – 0.00% (15.09.22 – 3.65%) Let's GOWEX ¹	–	–
	SWEDEN – 0.00% (15.09.22 – 17.42%)	–	–
	SWITZERLAND – 0.00% (15.09.22 – 2.68%)	–	–
	TOTAL CONTINENTAL EUROPE	–	–
	UNITED KINGDOM – 0.00% (15.09.22 – 10.69%)		
3,230,000	4D Pharma ¹	–	–
400,000	4D Pharma 10/3/2025 Warrants ¹	–	–
195,954	4D Pharma ADR ¹	–	–
	TOTAL UNITED KINGDOM	–	–
	TOTAL EQUITIES	–	–

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND
ACD'S REPORT continued
PORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued
as at 15 September 2023

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	15.09.23 %
	FORWARD CURRENCY CONTRACTS – 0.00% (15.09.22 – (0.61)%)	–	–
	TOTAL FORWARD CURRENCY CONTRACTS	–	–
	Portfolio of investments	–	–
	Net other assets	–	–
	Net assets	–	–

The investments have been valued in accordance with note 1(F) of the Accounting Policies and are delisted ordinary shares.

¹ Suspended security.

Definition:
ADR – American Depositary Receipts.

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

SUMMARY OF MATERIAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES

for the year ended 15 September 2023

Total purchases for the year £'000 (note 16)	104,288	Total sales for the year £'000 (note 16)	290,748
	Cost		Proceeds
Major purchases	£'000	Major sales	£'000
UK Treasury 0.75% 22/7/2023	15,851	UPM-Kymmene	17,283
Bayer	14,533	Software	16,529
Unilever	10,639	UK Treasury 0.75% 22/7/2023	15,945
Reckitt Benckiser	9,678	Veolia	14,293
WisdomTree Brent Crude Oil	7,389	Deutsche Post	14,290
GSK	7,336	Bayer	12,835
UPM-Kymmene	6,139	AcadeMedia	11,712
Instone Real Estate	5,391	PureTech Health	10,510
Veolia	3,272	Loomis 'B'	10,390
Yara International	3,067	Yara International	10,322

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

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN
for the year ended 15 September 2023

	Notes	£'000	15.09.23 £'000	£'000	15.09.22 £'000
Income:					
Net capital gains/(losses)	3		4,124		(57,810)
Revenue	4	5,531		5,453	
Expenses	5	(1,880)		(2,777)	
Interest payable and similar charges	7	(1)		-	
Net revenue before taxation		3,650		2,676	
Taxation	6	(339)		(315)	
Net revenue after taxation			3,311		2,361
Total return before distributions			7,435		(55,449)
Distributions	8		-		(2,379)
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities			7,435		(57,828)

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS
for the year ended 15 September 2023

	£'000	15.09.23 £'000	£'000	15.09.22 £'000
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders		202,682		265,541
Amounts receivable on issue of shares	11,849		34,434	
Amounts payable on redemption of shares	(220,384)		(41,584)	
Amounts payable on termination	<u>(1,582)</u>		<u>—</u>	
		(210,117)		(7,150)
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities		7,435		(57,828)
Retained distributions on Accumulation shares		<u>—</u>		<u>2,119</u>
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders		<u>—</u>		<u>202,682</u>

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
BALANCE SHEET
as at 15 September 2023

	Notes	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
ASSETS			
Fixed assets			
Investments		–	183,498
Current assets			
Debtors	9	655	1,287
Cash and bank balances	10	952	22,218
Total assets		<u>1,607</u>	<u>207,003</u>
LIABILITIES			
Investment liabilities		–	(1,333)
Creditors			
Distribution payable	11	–	(24)
Other creditors	11	(1,607)	(2,964)
Total liabilities		<u>(1,607)</u>	<u>(4,321)</u>
Net assets attributable to shareholders		<u>–</u>	<u>202,682</u>

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 15 September 2023

1. Accounting Policies

The accounting policies described on pages 18 to 23 have been applied to the financial statements of the Fund in the current and prior year.

2. Distribution Policies

The distribution policies described on page 23 have been applied to the financial statements of the Fund in the current and prior year.

3. Net Capital Gains/(Losses)

The net capital gains/(losses) during the year comprise:

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Non-derivative securities	2,941	(58,330)
Derivative contracts	(1,037)	–
Forward currency contracts	1,241	(176)
Transaction charges	(7)	(5)
AMC rebates from underlying investments	6	–
Currency gains	980	701
Net capital gains/(losses)	4,124	(57,810)

4. Revenue

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Non-taxable dividends	4,005	5,006
Taxable dividends	–	174
UK property income distributions	112	218
Interest on debt securities	125	–
Bank interest	1,289	55
Total revenue	5,531	5,453

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

5. Expenses

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Payable to the ACD, associates of the ACD and agents of either of them:		
Annual Management Charge	1,726	2,615
Typesetting costs	15	3
Registration fees	50	73
	1,791	2,691
Payable to the Depositary, associates of the Depositary and agents of either of them:		
Depositary's fees	43	58
Safe custody and other bank charges	27	23
	70	81
Other expenses:		
Publication costs	5	5
Legal and professional fees	14	–
	19	5
Total expenses	1,880	2,777

The Investment Manager's fees and expenses (plus VAT thereon) for providing investment management services are paid by the ACD out of its remuneration.

From 1 March 2015 the ACD pays the legal and professional fees in relation to KIID production costs and audit fees of the Fund on a discretionary basis. Audit fees for the current year are £12,600 plus VAT (15.09.22: £11,350 plus VAT).

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

6. Taxation

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
a) Analysis of charge for the year		
Corporation tax at 20%	–	–
Overseas tax	339	315
Current tax charge	339	315
Deferred tax – origination and reversal of timing differences (note 6c)	–	–
Total taxation (note 6b)	339	315

b) Factors affecting the tax charge for the year

The tax assessed for the year differs from the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK for an authorised fund (20%) (15.09.22: 20%). The difference is explained below:

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Net revenue before taxation	3,650	2,676
Corporation tax at 20%	730	535
Effects of:		
Non-taxable dividends	(801)	(1,001)
AMC rebates taken to capital	1	–
Unutilised excess management expenses	70	471
Foreign tax expensed	–	(5)
Corporation tax charge	–	–
Overseas tax	339	315
Total tax charge (note 6a)	339	315

c) Deferred tax

At the year end there is a potential deferred tax asset of £7,026,000 (15.09.22: £6,958,000) in relation to surplus management expenses. It is unlikely that the Fund will generate sufficient taxable profits in the future to utilise this amount and, therefore, no deferred tax asset has been recognised in the current or prior year.

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

7. Interest Payable and Similar Charges

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Interest payable	1	–
Total interest payable and similar charges	1	–

8. Distributions

The distributions take account of revenue received on the issue of shares and revenue deducted on redemption of shares, and comprise:

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Final	–	2,143
	–	2,143
Add: Revenue deducted on redemption of shares	–	286
Deduct: Revenue received on issue of shares	–	(50)
Net distributions for the year	–	2,379

Details of the distributions per share are set out in the table on page 83.

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Distributions represented by:		
Net revenue after taxation	–	2,361
Equalisation on conversions ¹	–	18
Net distributions for the year	–	2,379

¹ Where an investor converts to a class with a higher income yield, the investor will receive an equalisation as if they had held the new class throughout the period from the last distribution to the conversion date. The yield differential at the point of conversion is an equalisation which will be offset by capital erosion for the converted investor.

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

9. Debtors

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Sales awaiting settlement	–	691
Accrued revenue:		
Non-taxable dividends	–	3
AMC rebates from underlying investments	6	–
	6	3
Prepaid expenses	–	5
Taxation recoverable:		
Overseas withholding tax	649	588
Total debtors	655	1,287

10. Cash and Bank Balances

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Bank balances	952	22,218
Total cash and bank balances	952	22,218

11. Creditors

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Distribution payable	–	24
Other Creditors		
Amounts payable for redemption of shares	1,582	202
Purchases awaiting settlement	–	2,460

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Accrued expenses:		
Amounts payable to the ACD, associates of the ACD and agents of either of them:		
Annual Management Charge	–	281
Typesetting costs	15	1
Registration fees	–	8
	15	290
Amounts payable to the Depositary, associates of the Depositary and agents of either of them:		
Depositary's fees	–	7
Transaction charges	–	1
Safe custody and other bank charges	–	4
	–	12
Legal and professional fees	10	–
Total other creditors	1,607	2,964

12. Related Party Transactions

The Annual Management Charge payable to Waystone Management (UK) Limited ('WMUK') ('the ACD'), registration fees payable to Link Fund Administrators Limited and typesetting costs payable to Link Alternative Fund Administrators Limited (both companies are associates of the ACD) are disclosed in note 5 and amounts due at the year end are disclosed in note 11.

The aggregate monies received by the ACD through the issue of shares and paid on redemption of shares are disclosed in the Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders on page 69 and amounts due at the year end are disclosed in note 11.

WMUK and its associates (including other authorised investment funds managed by WMUK or its associates) held 9,628,516 (15.09.22: 9,456,401) of the Fund's shares at the balance sheet date.

A shareholder may be able to exercise significant influence over the financial and operating policies of the Fund and as such is deemed to be a related party. At the balance sheet date the following shareholders held in excess of 20% of the shares in issue of the Fund:

RBC IS GFP Ruffer	12.70% (15.09.22: 23.67%)
WMUK	0.29% (15.09.22: 33.97%)

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

13. Contingent Liabilities and Commitments

There are no contingent liabilities or unrecorded outstanding commitments (15.09.22: none).

14. Shares in Issue

	I Accumulation	O Accumulation ¹	C Accumulation	C Income
Annual Management Charge	1.00%	0.00%	1.20%	1.20%
Opening shares in issue	19,888,896	1,550,528	4,329,835	2,069,519
Issues	1,234,698	182	45,890	33,795
Redemptions	(1,108,085)	(33,413)	(1,515,042)	(715,248)
Conversions	1,002,345	(1,517,297)	498,022	(506,824)
Closing shares in issue	21,017,854	–	3,358,705	881,242

15. Risk Management Policies

During the trading period of the Fund, in pursuing the investment objective a number of financial instruments are held which may comprise securities and other investments, cash balances and debtors and creditors that arise directly from operations. Derivatives, such as futures or forward currency contracts, may be utilised for Efficient Portfolio Management (including hedging) and investment purposes.

The main risks from the Fund's holding of financial instruments, together with the ACD's policy for managing these risks, are set out below:

The ACD has in place a Risk Management Policy and Procedures Document ('RMPPD') that sets out the risks that may impact a fund and how the ACD seeks, where appropriate, to manage, monitor and mitigate those risks, and in particular those risks associated with the use of derivatives. The RMPPD sets out both the framework and the risk mitigations operated by the ACD in managing the identified risks of the Fund. The ACD requires that the appointed Investment Manager to the Fund has in place its own governance structure, policies and procedures that are commensurate with its regulatory obligations and the risks posed by the fund managed.

(A) CREDIT RISK

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty may be unable or unwilling to make a payment or fulfil contractual obligations. This may be in terms of an actual default or by deterioration in a counterparty's credit quality.

¹ O Accumulation share classes converted into either the C or I share classes on 16 November 2022.

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

Certain transactions in securities that the Fund enters into expose it to the risk that the counterparty will not deliver the investment for a purchase, or cash for a sale after the Fund has fulfilled its obligations. As part of its due diligence process, the ACD undertakes a review of the controls operated over counterparties by the Investment Manager, including initial and ongoing due diligence and business volumes placed with each counterparty. In cases which are dependent on the counterparty settling at the transaction’s maturity date, the ACD has policies in place which set out the minimum credit quality expected of a market counterparty or deposit taker at the outset of the transaction.

There were forward currency contracts held at the prior year balance sheet date. Details of individual contracts are disclosed separately in the Portfolio Statement and the total position by counterparty at the prior year balance sheet date was as follows:

15.09.22 Counterparty ¹	Forward currency contracts £'000	Net cash collateral pledged £'000
BNY Mellon	(1,245)	-

(B) INTEREST RATE RISK

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of the Fund’s investments will fluctuate as a result of interest rate changes. The value of fixed interest securities may be affected by changes in interest rates, either globally or locally. Changes in the rate of return in one asset class may influence the valuation basis of other classes. The amount of revenue receivable from floating rate investments and bank balances or payable on bank overdrafts will be affected by fluctuations in interest rates.

As the Fund seeks to obtain its return from investing mainly in equities and has no significant exposure to interest rate risks, no interest rate risk table or sensitivity analysis has been presented.

(C) FOREIGN CURRENCY RISK

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the Sterling value of investments will fluctuate as a result of exchange rate movements. Assets denominated in currencies other than Sterling will provide direct exposure to currency risk as a consequence of the movement in foreign exchange rates when calculating the Sterling equivalent value. Forward currency contracts are employed by the Investment Manager, where deemed appropriate, to mitigate the foreign exchange risk.

¹ Listed options and futures are excluded.

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

The table below shows the direct foreign currency risk profile:

	15.09.23 Gross £'000	15.09.23 Hedged £'000	15.09.23 Net £'000
Currency:			
Euros	540	–	540
Norwegian krone	109	–	109
	<u>649</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>649</u>
Pounds sterling	(649)	–	(649)
Net assets	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>

	15.09.22 Gross £'000	15.09.22 Hedged £'000	15.09.22 Net £'000
Currency:			
Euros	159,277	(106,697)	52,580
Fiji dollars	(14)	–	(14)
Norwegian krone	16,611	–	16,611
Swedish krona	35,301	(16,745)	18,556
Swiss francs	5,428	(2,177)	3,251
	<u>216,603</u>	<u>(125,619)</u>	<u>90,984</u>
Pounds sterling	(12,676)	124,374	111,698
Net assets	<u>203,927</u>	<u>(1,245)</u>	<u>202,682</u>

A 5% change in the pounds Sterling exchange rate against all other currencies, assuming all other factors remained the same, would have an impact of £32,000 on the net assets of the Fund (15.09.22: £4,549,000).

(D) LEVERAGE

The Fund did not employ any significant leverage in the current or prior year.

(E) LIQUIDITY RISK

The main liability of the Fund is the redemption of any shares that investors want to sell. Investments may have to be sold to fund such redemptions should insufficient cash be held at the bank to meet this obligation. The ACD monitors the liquidity profile of the Fund daily.

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

for the year ended 15 September 2023

In assessing the liquidity profile of the Fund, the ACD assesses how much of the Fund can be realised in one and five days, under normal and stressed market conditions, and the impact this would have on the overall subsequent liquidity profile.

In assessing the liquidity of a company's shares, the ACD utilises the lower of the 5 and 20 day average market volume of that company's shares. An in depth review takes place by assessing the liquidity profile of the Fund against a 25% market participation of the average daily volume.

All financial liabilities are payable in one year or less, or on demand.

(F) MARKET PRICE RISK

Market price risk is the risk that the value of the Fund's financial instruments will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices caused by factors other than interest rate or foreign currency movement. Market price risk arises primarily from uncertainty about the future prices of financial instruments that the Fund holds.

Market price risk represents the potential loss the Fund may suffer through holding market positions in the face of price movements. The Fund's investment portfolio is exposed to price fluctuations, which are monitored by the ACD in pursuance of the investment objective and policy. The risk is generally regarded as consisting of two elements – stock specific risk and market risk. Adhering to investment guidelines and avoiding excessive exposure to one particular issuer can limit stock specific risk. Subject to compliance with the investment objective, spreading exposure across a broad range of global stocks can mitigate market risk.

A 5% increase in the value of the Fund's portfolio, excluding forward currency contracts, would have the effect of increasing the return and net assets by £nil (15.09.22: £9,171,000). A 5% decrease would have an equal and opposite effect.

(G) DERIVATIVES

The Investment Manager has employed derivatives for the purposes of hedging with the aim of reducing the risk profile of the Fund, or reducing costs, or generating additional capital or income, in accordance with Efficient Portfolio Management (EPM). Due to the relatively simple derivative strategies that may be used by the Fund, the ACD monitors their risk using the commitment approach. The leverage, as measured using the approach, cannot exceed 100%.

During the year the Investment Manager has used forward currency contracts. The intention in using forward currency contracts is to reduce the risk profile of the Fund by managing the exposure of the Fund to certain currency exchange risk and leave the Fund primarily exposed to the underlying market risk of investments. Therefore, where the value of investments falls due to currency movement, the forward currency contracts generate a gain and vice versa.

Refer to note 3 for the impact of derivatives and forward currency contracts in the year, and to the Portfolio Statement for the current position of forward currency contracts held at the year end.

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

16. Portfolio Transaction Costs

15.09.23	Purchases/ sales before transaction costs £'000	Commissions £'000	Taxes £'000	Gross purchases/ net sales £'000
Ordinary shares	80,861	30	157	81,048
Collective investment schemes	7,387	1	–	7,388
Debt securities	15,852	–	–	15,852
Purchases total	104,100	31	157	104,288
Transaction cost % of purchases total		0.03%	0.15%	
Transaction cost % of average NAV		0.02%	0.09%	
Ordinary shares	267,785	(97)	(2)	267,686
Collective investment schemes	7,118	(1)	–	7,117
Debt securities	15,945	–	–	15,945
Sales total	290,848	(98)	(2)	290,748
Transaction cost % of sales total		0.03%	–	
Transaction cost % of average NAV		0.05%	–	

Average portfolio dealing spread at 15.09.23 is nil% (15.09.22: 0.34%).

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

	Purchases/ sales before transaction costs £'000	Commissions £'000	Taxes £'000	Gross purchases/ net sales £'000
15.09.22				
Ordinary shares	157,871	55	137	158,063
Purchases total	157,871	55	137	158,063
Transaction cost % of purchases total		0.03%	0.09%	
Transaction cost % of average NAV		0.02%	0.06%	
Ordinary shares	165,087	(54)	–	165,033
Sales total	165,087	(54)	–	165,033
Transaction cost % of sales total		0.03%	–	
Transaction cost % of average NAV		0.02%	–	

The collective investment schemes include closed end funds and exchange traded commodities.

17. Fair Value Hierarchy

Investments are categorised into the following levels based on their fair value measurement:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted price in an active market for an identical instrument;

Level 2: Valuation techniques using observable inputs other than quoted prices within Level 1;

Level 3: Valuation techniques using unobservable inputs (see note 1(F) of the Accounting Policies).

	Level 1 £'000	Level 2 £'000	Level 3 £'000	Total £'000
15.09.23				
Investment assets	–	–	–	–
15.09.22				
Investment assets	183,410	88	–	183,498
Investment liabilities	–	(1,333)	–	(1,333)

WS RUFFER EUROPEAN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

DISTRIBUTION TABLE

for the year ended 15 September 2023 – in pence per share

EQUALISATION

Equalisation applies only to shares purchased during the distribution period (Group 2 shares – the applicable distribution periods for each distribution are shown below). It represents the accrued revenue included in the purchase price of the shares. After averaging it is returned with the distribution as a capital repayment. It is not liable to Income Tax but must be deducted from the cost of the shares for Capital Gains Tax purposes. Where there is no distribution at interim, the final distribution is deemed to run for the whole year.

Group 2	Final
From	16.09.22
To	15.09.23

O ACCUMULATION SHARES

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocation 15.11.23	Allocated 15.11.22
Group 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.9635
Group 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.9635

I ACCUMULATION SHARES

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocation 15.11.23	Allocated 15.11.22
Group 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.9809
Group 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.9809

C ACCUMULATION SHARES

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocation 15.11.23	Allocated 15.11.22
Group 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.2643
Group 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.2643

C INCOME SHARES

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Payable 15.11.23	Paid 15.11.22
Group 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.1699
Group 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.1699

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND ACD'S REPORT

for the year ended 15 September 2023

Important Information

Refer to the 'Important Information' section on pages 6 and 7.

Investment Objective and Policy

The investment objective of WS Ruffer Total Return Fund ('the Fund') is to seek to achieve positive returns in all market conditions over any 12 month period, after all costs and charges have been taken.

Underlying this objective is a fundamental philosophy of capital preservation.

Capital invested is at risk and there is no guarantee that a positive return will be delivered over any twelve-month period.

The investment policy of the Fund is to invest both directly and indirectly in the following asset classes: equities (including equity related securities), debt instruments (including government and public securities, corporate bonds, distressed debt and private debt), alternative investments (such as property and commodities such as precious metals), money market instruments, deposits and cash. As part of the equity exposure, the Fund may invest in Investment Trusts.

The Fund may gain exposure to these asset classes directly by investing in securities issued by companies and governments, and indirectly by investing in other permissible transferable securities and collective investment schemes and derivatives. Indirect investments may include instruments managed or advised by the ACD or the Investment Manager or their associates. Exposure to alternative assets will be through indirect investments only. For reasons such as operational efficiency and market access, the Fund may access a specific investment indirectly by holding a structured product. Structured products are a type of investment where the return depends on the performance of a specific financial market or specific asset(s).

Investments in collective investment schemes is limited to 10% of total assets by value.

The Fund can invest across different geographic areas (including emerging markets), industry sectors and market capitalisations without limitation.

Derivatives may be used for both investment and efficient portfolio management purposes, including hedging. Derivative usage may be used to indirectly gain exposure to currencies, interest rates and volatility markets but otherwise will be limited to contracts relating to the asset classes noted above. This may include structured products.

There is no limit on the amount that can be held in each asset class. The Fund may not retain exposure to all asset classes at all times.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

Benchmark

The Fund's comparator benchmark is the UK Bank Rate.

The Fund's performance may be compared against the following benchmark (referred to as 'comparator benchmark'): UK Bank Rate. The ACD believes this is an appropriate comparator benchmark given the investment objective and policy of the Fund. The ACD considers it may assist investors in evaluating the Fund's performance.

WAYSTONE MANAGEMENT (UK) LIMITED

ACD of WS Ruffer Total Return Fund

12 January 2024

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

for the year ended 15 September 2023

The share price of the C Accumulation Shares of the Fund fell by 1.8% between 15 September 2022 and 15 September 2023. This compared with a return on the UK Bank Rate of 4.1%.

Fund performance overall for the 12-month period under review may have been broadly flat, but this masks two very different periods of performance from the Ruffer portfolio. We made good gains between September 2022 and March 2023 as both bond and equity markets continued to struggle, and our cautious stance, with its emphasis on protection assets, delivered for our investors. However, for most of 2023, 'discretion' has very much not proved the better part of 'valour'. Equity markets have delivered positive returns, albeit driven by a very narrow set of stocks, and the cautious positioning and protection assets that were so beneficial through the dark days of 2022 have proved costly this year. The result being that the Fund has disappointingly fallen back by a little more than we made in the previous six months and failed to beat the return on cash for the period as a whole.

The period began with a sharp sell-off in global bond markets in September and early October 2022, with UK gilts in particular hit hard during Liz Truss's short tenure as prime minister. The yield on the 30-year gilt rose 140bps in just a few days as UK corporate defined benefit pension schemes struggled to meet collateral calls from their LDI portfolios. Whilst the Fund's index-linked bond allocation consequently suffered, overall performance was protected by options and other unconventional assets. This helped the Fund preserve capital in stressed markets and stand ready to deploy that capital. This is consistent with how we have built our long-term track record – capital preservation in times of crisis followed by the allocation of this preserved capital at the most opportune moments. We added almost 2% to the longest-dated index-linked bonds in the UK, during the most acute phase of selling pressure, and were able to quickly take profits on this holding as prices rapidly recovered.

By the end of October a relief rally in almost all risk assets began as the first signs that we might be past the peak of the current inflationary episode became visible, with US CPI coming in at 'merely' +7.1%. The Fund participated in this rally thanks to substantial asset allocation changes through the fourth quarter of 2022. At the start of the period under review, the Fund had a very low exposure to both duration (bonds) and equities, reflecting our structural views on the challenging outlook for risk assets. But by the end of September a lot of bad news was priced into equities and especially into bonds. So we cut back our equity protection and added to long duration US and UK inflation-linked bonds at real yields of nearly 2%. Pivoting away from our structural views in reflection of prevailing prices allowed the portfolio to deliver positive returns even as the market backdrop altered dramatically.

So much for the good news. The second half of the period under review has been much more difficult for the portfolio. Taking a cautious view on markets over the last six months has proved a painful experience and the Fund, with its focus on protection assets, has declined by a little more than we made in the first six months.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT continued

Losing money for clients is always painful, but we have been here before. For more than a quarter of a century now, Ruffer has protected investors from every major market crisis. In order to achieve this, however, we have at times delivered dull or disappointing short-term performance. Losing money in 1999 in the tech bubble, flatlining in the easy markets of 2006-7 and struggling in the run up to the COVID crisis. Strikingly, each of our disappointing periods has come before a sharp decline in stock markets, as we focused portfolios more on protection than growth, albeit often seemingly too early. We have been willing to sit on the side-lines as we wait for the problems we have identified to manifest themselves, even if that means suffering the costs of holding protection with progressively less on the growth side of the ledger as an offset.

The portfolio is where it is for a reason. With more than a five percent risk free return available in US money market funds, cash has only been such an attractive alternative to equities twice this century: in 2000, during the tech bubble and in 2007, just before the financial crisis. Neither period ended well for investors, and we fear a similar outcome could be lying in wait for markets now. Even more worrying is what happened after these crises. In both 2000 and 2008 markets were immediately 'medicated' by dramatic interest rate cuts. Today, a similar rescue may be difficult. With inflation more persistent than promised, central bankers would have to choose between monetary stability (fighting inflation) or financial stability (supporting markets).

All of this points to an emphasis on protection rather than growth, though as ever we aim for an appropriate balance of 'fear' and 'greed' so as to make time our friend. Whilst we acknowledge that with the benefit of hindsight, we have not got the short-term balance in the portfolio between fear and greed right, we are confident that our protection assets will more than prove their worth. Timing is always difficult, but we would always choose being too early over being too late.

The protections in the portfolio are three-fold. Structural protection against a new regime which is likely to be characterised by higher and more volatile inflation; shorter-term (and powerful) protection against the potential financial instability caused by tighter liquidity and higher interest rates; and protection against a recession that could well follow. Within these protection assets there were three principal detractors to performance over the last six months: sterling strength, particularly against the yen; options and protective strategies; and inflation-linked bonds. All of these we believe could reverse sharply in a market dislocation, more than recovering the recent disappointing performance.

For the moment, investors seem to be growing in confidence that policy makers will be able to successfully navigate the narrow tightrope of stability. We are less convinced. Taking a cautious view can be painful, but history tells us that not long after these periods, the risks emerge, leading to significant drawdowns in markets.

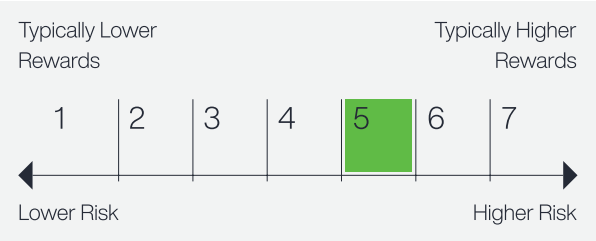
RUFFER LLP

Investment Manager

29 September 2023

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND
ACD'S REPORT continued
FUND INFORMATION

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 lowest number on the scale does not mean that a fund is risk free.

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.

Currency Risk: As the Fund can be exposed to different currencies, changes in exchange rates may decrease the value of your investment.

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.

Changes in Interest Rate Risk: A rise in interest rates generally cause 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: The Fund may invest in assets where, in difficult market conditions, there is an increased risk that a position cannot be bought or sold in a timely manner or at a reasonable price and the Manager may suspend dealing in the Fund.

Derivatives Risk: A derivative may not perform as expected and may create losses greater than its cost.

Emerging Markets Risk: The Fund may invest in emerging markets, which are markets in countries that are developing. Emerging markets may have more political and economic risks than developed markets, resulting in price movements that may cause a loss to the Fund.

Alternative Investment Risk: The Fund may invest in other investment vehicles to gain indirect exposure to alternative assets such as property and precious metals. Exposure to such investments can involve a higher degree of risk that may increase the risk of investment loss. The performance of such vehicles can be volatile and there is a risk that investors may experience a delay in receiving redemption proceeds.

For full details of the Fund's risks, please see the Prospectus which may be obtained upon application and can be found on the ACD's website, www.waystone.com.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

FUND INFORMATION continued

Comparative Tables

Where the Fund has significant investment in collective investment schemes, exchange-traded funds and similar products, the operating charges figure takes account of the ongoing charges incurred in the underlying schemes, calculated as the expense value of such holdings at the year end weighted against the net asset value of the share class at that date.

I INCOME SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	15.09.23 pence per share	15.09.22 pence per share	15.09.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	358.30	367.23	332.48
Return before operating charges*	(0.21)	(1.51)	42.69
Operating charges	(3.77)	(3.84)	(3.54)
Return after operating charges	(3.98)	(5.35)	39.15
Distributions	(8.58)	(3.58)	(4.40)
Closing net asset value per share	345.74	358.30	367.23
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.10	0.26	0.36

PERFORMANCE

Return after charges	(1.11)%	(1.46)%	11.78%
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OTHER INFORMATION

Closing net asset value (£'000)	452,330	769,307	568,158
Closing number of shares	130,827,855	214,712,739	154,715,876
Operating charges	1.03%	1.02% ¹	0.99%
Direct transaction costs	0.03%	0.07%	0.10%

PRICES

Highest share price	383.56	387.55	380.65
Lowest share price	345.18	360.90	324.95

¹ As the Fund did not have significant investment in collective investment schemes, the operating charges did not take account of the ongoing charges incurred in the underlying schemes, calculated as the expense value of such holdings at the year end date weighted against the net asset value of the share class at that date.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

FUND INFORMATION continued

Comparative Tables continued

I ACCUMULATION SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	15.09.23 pence per share	15.09.22 pence per share	15.09.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	574.86	574.58	514.09
Return before operating charges*	(0.80)	6.31	65.98
Operating charges	(6.09)	(6.03)	(5.49)
Return after operating charges	(6.89)	0.28	60.49
Distributions	(13.84)	(5.60)	(6.82)
Retained distributions on accumulation shares	13.84	5.60	6.82
Closing net asset value per share	567.97	574.86	574.58
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.16	0.41	0.56

PERFORMANCE

Return after charges	(1.20)%	0.05%	11.77%
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OTHER INFORMATION

Closing net asset value (£'000)	649,541	558,030	426,820
Closing number of shares	114,362,773	97,071,541	74,283,353
Operating charges	1.03%	1.02% ¹	0.99%
Direct transaction costs	0.03%	0.07%	0.10%

PRICES

Highest share price	615.35	609.81	590.38
Lowest share price	561.12	569.97	502.44

¹ As the Fund did not have significant investment in collective investment schemes, the operating charges did not take account of the ongoing charges incurred in the underlying schemes, calculated as the expense value of such holdings at the year end date weighted against the net asset value of the share class at that date.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

FUND INFORMATION continued

Comparative Tables continued

C INCOME SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	15.09.23 pence per share	15.09.22 pence per share	15.09.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	337.63	346.74	314.55
Return before operating charges*	(0.16)	(1.40)	40.38
Operating charges	(4.24)	(4.33)	(4.03)
Return after operating charges	(4.40)	(5.73)	36.35
Distributions	(8.08)	(3.38)	(4.16)
Closing net asset value per share	325.15	337.63	346.74
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.10	0.25	0.34

PERFORMANCE

Return after charges	(1.30)%	(1.65)%	11.56%
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OTHER INFORMATION

Closing net asset value (£'000)	240,975	271,192	300,902
Closing number of shares	74,111,893	80,322,395	86,780,273
Operating charges	1.23%	1.22% ¹	1.19%
Direct transaction costs	0.03%	0.07%	0.10%

PRICES

Highest share price	361.14	365.58	359.61
Lowest share price	324.68	340.18	307.35

¹ As the Fund did not have significant investment in collective investment schemes, the operating charges did not take account of the ongoing charges incurred in the underlying schemes, calculated as the expense value of such holdings at the year end date weighted against the net asset value of the share class at that date.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

FUND INFORMATION continued

Comparative Tables continued

C ACCUMULATION SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	15.09.23 pence per share	15.09.22 pence per share	15.09.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	541.42	542.24	486.07
Return before operating charges*	(0.73)	5.98	62.40
Operating charges	(6.84)	(6.80)	(6.23)
Return after operating charges	(7.57)	(0.82)	56.17
Distributions	(13.02)	(5.29)	(6.44)
Retained distributions on accumulation shares	13.02	5.29	6.44
Closing net asset value per share	533.85	541.42	542.24
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.15	0.39	0.53

PERFORMANCE

Return after charges	(1.40)%	(0.15)%	11.56%
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OTHER INFORMATION

Closing net asset value (£'000)	989,991	1,069,931	1,728,133
Closing number of shares	185,442,941	197,615,344	318,703,720
Operating charges	1.23%	1.22% ¹	1.19%
Direct transaction costs	0.03%	0.07%	0.10%

PRICES

Highest share price	579.09	574.87	557.41
Lowest share price	527.50	536.96	474.93

¹ As the Fund did not have significant investment in collective investment schemes, the operating charges did not take account of the ongoing charges incurred in the underlying schemes, calculated as the expense value of such holdings at the year end date weighted against the net asset value of the share class at that date.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

FUND INFORMATION continued

Comparative Tables continued

H INCOME SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	15.09.23 pence per share	15.09.22 pence per share	15.09.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	358.04	367.33	332.90
Return before operating charges*	(0.20)	(1.50)	42.73
Operating charges	(4.13)	(4.21)	(3.90)
Return after operating charges	(4.33)	(5.71)	38.83
Distributions	(8.58)	(3.58)	(4.40)
Closing net asset value per share	345.13	358.04	367.33
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.10	0.26	0.36

PERFORMANCE

Return after charges	(1.21)%	(1.55)%	11.66%
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OTHER INFORMATION

Closing net asset value (£'000)	7,245	39,245	35,315
Closing number of shares	2,099,161	10,961,197	9,613,966
Operating charges	1.13%	1.12% ¹	1.09%
Direct transaction costs	0.03%	0.07%	0.10%

PRICES

Highest share price	383.12	387.47	380.86
Lowest share price	344.60	360.69	325.32

¹ As the Fund did not have significant investment in collective investment schemes, the operating charges did not take account of the ongoing charges incurred in the underlying schemes, calculated as the expense value of such holdings at the year end date weighted against the net asset value of the share class at that date.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

FUND INFORMATION continued

Comparative Tables continued

H ACCUMULATION SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	15.09.23 pence per share	15.09.22 pence per share	15.09.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	572.80	573.10	513.23
Return before operating charges*	(0.78)	6.30	65.90
Operating charges	(6.65)	(6.60)	(6.03)
Return after operating charges	(7.43)	(0.30)	59.87
Distributions	(13.78)	(5.59)	(6.80)
Retained distributions on accumulation shares	13.78	5.59	6.80
Closing net asset value per share	565.37	572.80	573.10
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.16	0.41	0.56

PERFORMANCE

Return after charges	(1.30)%	(0.05)%	11.67%
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OTHER INFORMATION

Closing net asset value (£'000)	39,246	63,956	30,109
Closing number of shares	6,941,740	11,165,377	5,253,811
Operating charges	1.13%	1.12% ¹	1.09%
Direct transaction costs	0.03%	0.07%	0.10%

PRICES

Highest share price	612.90	607.90	588.97
Lowest share price	558.60	568.00	501.53

¹ As the Fund did not have significant investment in collective investment schemes, the operating charges did not take account of the ongoing charges incurred in the underlying schemes, calculated as the expense value of such holdings at the year end date weighted against the net asset value of the share class at that date.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

FUND INFORMATION continued

Comparative Tables continued

J INCOME SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	15.09.23 pence per share	15.09.22 pence per share	15.09.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	359.95	368.63	333.60
Return before operating charges*	(0.25)	(1.60)	42.60
Operating charges	(3.42)	(3.47)	(3.20)
Return after operating charges	(3.67)	(5.07)	39.40
Distributions	(8.57)	(3.61)	(4.37)
Closing net asset value per share	347.71	359.95	368.63
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.10	0.26	0.36

PERFORMANCE

Return after charges	(1.02)%	(1.38)%	11.81%
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OTHER INFORMATION

Closing net asset value (£'000)	377,526	–	–
Closing number of shares	108,574,907	83	83
Operating charges	0.93%	0.92% ¹	0.89%
Direct transaction costs	0.03%	0.07%	0.10%

PRICES

Highest share price	385.45	389.16	381.88
Lowest share price	347.12	362.34	325.98

¹ As the Fund did not have significant investment in collective investment schemes, the operating charges did not take account of the ongoing charges incurred in the underlying schemes, calculated as the expense value of such holdings at the year end date weighted against the net asset value of the share class at that date.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

FUND INFORMATION continued

Comparative Tables continued

J ACCUMULATION SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	15.09.23 pence per share	15.09.22 pence per share	15.09.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	576.63	575.78	514.60
Return before operating charges*	(0.82)	6.30	66.12
Operating charges	(5.52)	(5.45)	(4.94)
Return after operating charges	(6.34)	0.85	61.18
Distributions	(13.89)	(5.62)	(6.83)
Retained distributions on accumulation shares	13.89	5.62	6.83
Closing net asset value per share	570.29	576.63	575.78
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.17	0.41	0.56

PERFORMANCE

Return after charges	(1.10)%	0.15%	11.89%
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OTHER INFORMATION

Closing net asset value (£'000)	85,721	353,822	436,214
Closing number of shares	15,031,126	61,359,873	75,761,231
Operating charges	0.93%	0.92% ¹	0.89%
Direct transaction costs	0.03%	0.07%	0.10%

PRICES

Highest share price	617.50	611.40	591.38
Lowest share price	563.37	571.64	502.99

¹ As the Fund did not have significant investment in collective investment schemes, the operating charges did not take account of the ongoing charges incurred in the underlying schemes, calculated as the expense value of such holdings at the year end date weighted against the net asset value of the share class at that date.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

FUND INFORMATION continued

Comparative Tables continued

K INCOME SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	15.09.23 pence per share	15.09.22 pence per share	15.09.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	360.36	368.96	333.80
Return before operating charges*	(0.83)	(1.76)	42.58
Operating charges	(3.20)	(3.21)	(3.02)
Return after operating charges	(4.03)	(4.97)	39.56
Distributions	(8.27)	(3.63)	(4.40)
Closing net asset value per share	348.07	360.36	368.96
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.10	0.26	0.36

PERFORMANCE

Return after charges	(1.12)%	(1.35)%	11.85%
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OTHER INFORMATION

Closing net asset value (£'000)	–	–	–
Closing number of shares	83	83	83
Operating charges	0.87%	0.85% ¹	0.84%
Direct transaction costs	0.03%	0.07%	0.10%

PRICES

Highest share price	385.88	389.53	382.23
Lowest share price	347.31	362.83	326.23

¹ As the Fund did not have significant investment in collective investment schemes, the operating charges did not take account of the ongoing charges incurred in the underlying schemes, calculated as the expense value of such holdings at the year end date weighted against the net asset value of the share class at that date.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

FUND INFORMATION continued

Comparative Tables continued

K ACCUMULATION SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	15.09.23 pence per share	15.09.22 pence per share	15.09.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	575.96	574.91	513.74
Return before operating charges*	(1.68)	6.08	65.83
Operating charges	(5.15)	(5.03)	(4.66)
Return after operating charges	(6.83)	1.05	61.17
Distributions	(13.37)	(5.67)	(6.83)
Retained distributions on accumulation shares	13.37	5.67	6.83
Closing net asset value per share	569.13	575.96	574.91
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.16	0.41	0.56

PERFORMANCE

Return after charges	(1.19)%	0.18%	11.91%
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OTHER INFORMATION

Closing net asset value (£'000)	–	–	–
Closing number of shares	54	54	54
Operating charges	0.87%	0.85% ¹	0.84%
Direct transaction costs	0.03%	0.07%	0.10%

PRICES

Highest share price	616.57	610.78	590.42
Lowest share price	562.22	571.00	502.13

¹ As the Fund did not have significant investment in collective investment schemes, the operating charges did not take account of the ongoing charges incurred in the underlying schemes, calculated as the expense value of such holdings at the year end date weighted against the net asset value of the share class at that date.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND
ACD’S REPORT continued
FUND INFORMATION continued

Fund Performance to 15 September 2023 (%)

	1 year	3 years	5 years
WS Ruffer Total Return Fund	(1.82)	10.45	22.65
UK Bank Rate ¹	4.07	4.93	6.18

¹ Source: Morningstar Direct.

The performance of the Fund is based on the published price per C 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 the above performance being calculated on the latest published price prior to the year end, rather than the year end return after operating charges.

Details of the distributions per share for the year are shown in the Distribution Table on pages 126 to 130.

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 RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

as at 15 September 2023

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	15.09.23 %
	DEBT SECURITIES – 65.98% (15.09.22 – 73.34%)		
AU\$135,000,000	Australia (Commonwealth of) 0.25% 21/11/2024	67,089	2.36
AU\$220,000,000	Australia (Commonwealth of) 2.75% 21/4/2024	113,374	3.99
¥27,700,000,000	Japan Government Bond 0.005% 1/4/2024	151,237	5.32
¥27,700,000,000	Japan Government Bond 0.005% 1/6/2024	151,254	5.32
¥27,700,000,000	Japan Government Bond 0.005% 1/7/2024	151,241	5.32
¥7,300,000,000	Japan Government Bond 0.005% 1/11/2024	39,858	1.40
£11,000,000	UK Treasury 0.125% index linked 22/3/2058	11,372	0.40
£42,000,000	UK Treasury 0.125% index-linked 22/11/2065	41,792	1.47
£114,000,000	UK Treasury 0.125% index-linked 22/3/2068	117,748	4.14
£50,000,000	UK Treasury 0.125% index-linked 22/3/2073	44,076	1.55
£25,000,000	UK Treasury 0.375% index-linked 22/3/2062	30,598	1.08
\$300,000,000	US Treasury <i>Floating Rate Bonds</i> 31/1/2024	242,028	8.51
\$145,000,000	US Treasury <i>Floating Rate Bonds</i> 31/10/2024	117,091	4.12
\$300,000,000	US Treasury <i>Floating Rate Bonds</i> 30/1/2025	242,404	8.53
\$75,000,000	US Treasury <i>Floating Rate Bonds</i> 30/4/2025	60,532	2.13
\$145,000,000	US Treasury <i>Floating Rate Bonds</i> 31/7/2025	116,864	4.11
\$90,000,000	US Treasury Inflation Protected Securities 0.125% 15/2/2051	50,472	1.78
\$125,556,800	US Treasury Inflation Protected Securities 0.125% 15/2/2052	65,025	2.29
\$85,000,000	US Treasury Inflation Protected Securities 1.5% 15/2/2053	61,474	2.16
	TOTAL DEBT SECURITIES	1,875,529	65.98
	JERSEY – 0.11% (15.09.22 – 0.00%)		
600,000	Yellow Cake ¹	3,129	0.11
	UNITED KINGDOM – 5.11% (15.09.22 – 5.96%)		
254,000	Admiral	6,185	0.22
125,690	Ashmore	242	0.01
500,000	BAE Systems	5,255	0.19

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued

as at 15 September 2023

	Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	15.09.23 %
	982,970	Balfour Beatty	3,267	0.12
	802,500	Beazley	4,731	0.17
	3,012,000	BP	15,759	0.55
	150,000	British American Tobacco	4,053	0.14
	323,700	GSK	4,886	0.17
	368,600	Jet2 ¹	4,091	0.14
	4,140,000	Man	8,889	0.31
	2,207,080	Marks & Spencer	4,847	0.17
	69,909	Reckitt Benckiser	4,028	0.14
	3,000,000	Rolls-Royce	6,822	0.24
	16,500,000	Ruffer UK Mid and Smaller Companies ^{2,3}	57,070	2.01
	1,066,800	Science ¹	4,267	0.15
	120,000	Unilever	4,924	0.17
	3,922,000	Vodafone	3,130	0.11
	80,000	Whitbread	2,942	0.10
		TOTAL UNITED KINGDOM	145,388	5.11
		CONTINENTAL EUROPE – 2.92% (15.09.22 – 3.82%)		
	1,200,000	Banco Santander	3,605	0.13
	950,000	Bank of Ireland	7,063	0.25
	300,000	Bayer	12,757	0.45
	110,000	Danone	5,091	0.18
	36,000	Dassault Aviation	5,588	0.20
	1,300,000	Glencore	5,933	0.21
	102,000	Grifols	1,160	0.04
	191,690	Grifols <i>ADR</i> (each representing 1 ordinary share)	1,528	0.05
	72,000	Groupe Bruxelles Lambert	4,591	0.16
	122,427	Hellenic Telecom	1,390	0.05
	142,000	JDE Peet's	3,067	0.11
	321,000	Orange	3,055	0.11
	3,700,000	Prosegur Cash	1,920	0.07

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued

as at 15 September 2023

		Value £'000	15.09.23 %
	Holding Portfolio of Investments		
9,491	Roche	2,231	0.08
92,800	Ryanair <i>ADR</i>	7,435	0.26
536,033	Vallourec	5,699	0.20
680,000	Vivendi	4,810	0.17
200,000	Vopak	5,533	0.19
4,100,000	WS Ruffer European ^{2,3,4}	267	0.01
	TOTAL CONTINENTAL EUROPE	82,723	2.92
	NORTH AMERICA – 3.47% (15.09.22 – 4.13%)		
96,500	Amazon.com	10,930	0.39
106,000	Bank of America	2,466	0.09
46,485	Cigna	10,621	0.37
97,000	Citigroup	3,341	0.12
761,640	Conduit	3,443	0.12
900,000	Coty	8,640	0.30
82,400	East West Bancorp	3,645	0.13
45,900	Exxon Mobil	4,322	0.15
56,000	General Electric	5,217	0.18
155,000	General Motors	4,243	0.15
60,000	GoDaddy	3,667	0.13
194,119	Jackson Financial	6,316	0.22
304,200	Kenvue	5,210	0.18
14,000	M&T Bank	1,459	0.05
13,500	Meta Platforms	3,270	0.12
56,000	Noble	2,394	0.08
195,313	Pfizer	5,362	0.19
37,000	Pioneer Natural Resources	6,984	0.25
26,000	PNC Financial Services	2,650	0.09
162,658	Suncor Energy	4,598	0.16
188,549	Value Creation ⁵	–	–
	TOTAL NORTH AMERICA	98,778	3.47

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued

as at 15 September 2023

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	15.09.23 %
	SOUTH AMERICA – 0.30% (15.09.22 – 0.72%)		
3,844,300	Ambev <i>ADR</i>	8,435	0.30
	JAPAN – 0.00% (15.09.22 – 1.51%)		
9,200,000	WS Ruffer Japanese ^{2,3,4}	65	–
	ASIA PACIFIC (EX JAPAN) – 2.99% (15.09.22 – 0.01%)		
3,100,000	Alibaba	27,549	0.97
300,000	Alibaba <i>ADR</i>	21,067	0.74
8,000,000	iShares MSCI China A UCITS ETF ²	27,661	0.97
1,500,000	Swire Pacific	8,825	0.31
	TOTAL ASIA PACIFIC (EX JAPAN)	85,102	2.99
	EXCHANGE TRADED COMMODITIES – 9.77% (15.09.22 – 0.00%)		
2,000,000	iShares Physical Gold ETC	60,443	2.13
3,500,000	WisdomTree Brent Crude Oil ²	154,389	5.43
2,300,000	WisdomTree Copper ²	62,695	2.21
	TOTAL COMMODITIES	277,527	9.77
	GOLD – 2.55% (15.09.22 – 1.63% ⁶)		
28,500,000	WS Ruffer Gold ^{2,3}	72,564	2.55
	CREDIT DEFAULT SWAPS – (1.56)% (15.09.22 – (0.27)%)		
191,352,661	Markit CDX.NA.HY	(6,536)	(0.23)
1,528,988,651	Markit CDX.NA.IG	(22,607)	(0.80)
123,985,441	Markit iTraxx Crossover	(6,136)	(0.22)
640,632,566	Markit iTraxx Europe Main	(8,938)	(0.31)
	TOTAL CREDIT DEFAULT SWAPS	(44,217)	(1.56)

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued

as at 15 September 2023

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	15.09.23 %
	OPTIONS – 0.40% (15.09.22 – 2.26%)		
¥22,273,000,000	Call JPY 175 11/2023	510	0.02
¥31,000,000,000	Call JPY 176 10/2023	274	0.01
9,414	CBOE SPX Call USD 23 09/2023	15	–
12,504	CBOE SPX Call USD 24 09/2023	20	–
¥12,567,000,000	Put JPY Swaption 0.33 10/2023	573	0.02
¥26,350,000,000	Put JPY Swaption 0.50 12/2023	747	0.03
¥14,598,000,000	Put JPY Swaption 0.55 01/2024	507	0.02
¥14,094,000,000	Put JPY Swaption 0.73 12/2023	1,538	0.05
¥27,000,000,000	Put JPY Swaption 0.75 09/2023	1,981	0.07
¥7,000,000,000	Put JPY Swaption 0.75 12/2023	748	0.03
¥(27,000,000,000)	Put JPY Swaption 1.05 09/2023	(24)	–
¥34,000,000,000	Put JPY Swaption 1.11 02/2024	1,569	0.05
¥33,600,000,000	Put JPY Swaption 1.14 02/2024	1,512	0.05
¥27,000,000,000	Put JPY Swaption 1.23 02/2024	857	0.03
¥(34,000,000,000)	Put JPY Swaption 1.36 02/2024	(831)	(0.03)
¥(33,600,000,000)	Put JPY Swaption 1.39 02/2024	(819)	(0.03)
¥(14,094,000,000)	Put JPY Swaption 1.73 12/2023	(39)	–
¥(7,000,000,000)	Put JPY Swaption 1.75 12/2023	(25)	–
1,165	S&P 500 Put USD 4100 09/2023	178	0.01
1,034	S&P 500 Put USD 4140 09/2023	215	0.01
1,031	S&P 500 Put USD 4160 09/2023	192	0.01
1,052	S&P 500 Put USD 4210 09/2023	269	0.01
590	S&P 500 Put USD 4300 10/2023	1,011	0.04
	TOTAL OPTIONS	10,978	0.40
	FORWARD CURRENCY CONTRACTS		
	– (0.24)% (15.09.22 – (2.58)%)		
US\$(1,330,000,000)	Vs £1,066,256,198 (expiry 15/12/2023) ⁷	(6,650)	(0.24)
€(150,000,000)	Vs £129,525,000 (expiry 15/12/2023) ⁷	(37)	–
	TOTAL FORWARD CURRENCY CONTRACTS	(6,687)	(0.24)

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

PORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued

as at 15 September 2023

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	15.09.23 %
	FUTURES – (0.01)% (15.09.22 – 0.06%)		
551	CBOE VIX 10/2023	(188)	(0.01)
462	CBOE VIX 11/2023	28	–
	TOTAL FUTURES	<u>(160)</u>	<u>(0.01)</u>
	Portfolio of investments ⁸	2,609,154	91.79
	Net other assets	<u>233,421</u>	<u>8.21</u>
	Net assets	<u>2,842,575</u>	<u>100.00</u>

The investments have been valued in accordance with note 1(F) of the Accounting Policies and are ordinary shares listed on a regulated market unless stated otherwise.

¹ Quoted on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

² Collective investment scheme.

³ Related party holding (see note 12).

⁴ In the process of being terminated.

⁵ Unlisted security.

⁶ The comparative has been restated to match current year presentation. WS Ruffer Gold has been reclassified from Exchange Traded Commodities to Gold.

⁷ Counterparty: BNY Mellon.

⁸ Includes investment liabilities.

Definition:

ADR – American Depositary Receipts.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

SUMMARY OF MATERIAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES

for the year ended 15 September 2023

Total purchases for the year £'000 (note 16)	4,510,208	Total sales for the year £'000 (note 16)	4,941,925
	Cost £'000		Proceeds £'000
Major purchases		Major sales	
US Treasury <i>Floating rate notes</i> 31/10/2023	336,937	US Treasury <i>Floating rate notes</i> 31/10/2023	641,881
US Treasury <i>Floating Rate Bonds</i> 31/1/2024	316,650	US Treasury <i>Floating Rate Bonds</i> 31/1/2024	358,724
US Treasury <i>Floating Rate Bonds</i> 31/7/2024	301,374	US Treasury <i>Floating rate notes</i> 31/1/2023	298,630
US Treasury <i>Floating Rate Bonds</i> 31/10/2024	259,356	US Treasury <i>Floating Rate Bonds</i> 31/7/2024	297,432
US Treasury Inflation Protected Securities 0.125% 15/2/2052	252,771	US Treasury Inflation Protected Securities 0.125% 15/1/2023	263,210
US Treasury <i>Floating Rate Bonds</i> 30/1/2025	250,524	UK Treasury 0.125% index-linked 22/3/2024	255,032
WisdomTree Brent Crude Oil ETF	210,543	UK Treasury 2.5% index-linked 17/7/2024	179,955
Japan Government Bond 0.005% 1/7/2024	162,389	US Treasury Inflation Protected Securities 0.125% 15/2/2052	179,315
US Treasury Inflation Protected Securities 0.125% 15/2/2051	161,219	US Treasury 0.625% 15/4/2023	170,124
iShares Physical Gold ETC	134,663	US Treasury <i>Floating Rate Bonds</i> 31/10/2024	149,126

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

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN
for the year ended 15 September 2023

	Notes	£'000	15.09.23 £'000	£'000	15.09.22 £'000
Income:					
Net capital losses	3		(90,152)		(68,753)
Revenue	4	127,318		113,716	
Expenses	5	(34,527)		(40,556)	
Interest payable and similar charges	7	(31,748)		(6,663)	
Net revenue before taxation		61,043		66,497	
Taxation	6	(452)		(2,712)	
Net revenue after taxation			60,591		63,785
Total return before distributions			(29,561)		(4,968)
Distributions	8		(78,438)		(90,546)
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities			(107,999)		(95,514)

STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS
for the year ended 15 September 2023

	Note	£'000	15.09.23 £'000	£'000	15.09.22 £'000
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders			3,493,054		3,876,015
Amounts receivable on issue of shares		173,543		717,198	
Amounts payable on redemption of shares		(762,680)		(517,145)	
In-specie transfer	1(J)	—		(547,955)	
			(589,137)		(347,902)
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities			(107,999)		(95,514)
Retained distributions on Accumulation shares			46,657		60,455
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders			2,842,575		3,493,054

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

BALANCE SHEET

as at 15 September 2023

	Notes	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
ASSETS			
Fixed assets			
Investments		2,661,984	3,281,889
Current assets			
Debtors	9	110,198	152,159
Cash and bank balances	10	155,809	247,465
Total assets		<u>2,927,991</u>	<u>3,681,513</u>
LIABILITIES			
Investment liabilities		(52,830)	(117,646)
Creditors			
Distribution payable	11	(11,385)	(18,220)
Other creditors	11	(21,201)	(52,593)
Total liabilities		<u>(85,416)</u>	<u>(188,459)</u>
Net assets attributable to shareholders		<u>2,842,575</u>	<u>3,493,054</u>

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 15 September 2023

1. Accounting Policies

The accounting policies described on pages 18 to 23 have been applied to the financial statements of the Fund in the current and prior year. The additional accounting policies described below have also been applied to this Fund.

(A) RECOGNITION OF REVENUE

Where underlying investments are related party investments, the rebates are accounted for as capital in line with the allocation of the Annual Management Charge of the Fund. In respect of related party underlying investments, rebates are disclosed in note 5 Expenses.

(B) TREATMENT OF EXPENSES

The Fund receives a rebate of the Annual Management Charge in relation to related party investments in the Fund. This is to eliminate double charging. The rebate is capital in nature (see above) but is disclosed in note 5 Expenses.

2. Distribution Policies

The distribution policies described on page 23 have been applied to the financial statements of the Fund in the current and prior year. The additional distribution policies described below have also been applied to this Fund.

The Annual Management Charge is transferred to capital for distribution purposes in line with the Fund's investment objective. This will increase the amount of revenue available for distribution; however, will erode capital and may constrain capital growth.

Rebates from underlying investments which are related parties are revenue or capital in nature as explained in the accounting policies on revenue and expenses above. As such, these rebates are not included in the distribution where they are capital in nature.

3. Net Capital Losses

The net capital losses during the year comprise:

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Non-derivative securities	(107,282)	(64,834)
Derivative contracts	(36,827)	188,702
Forward currency contracts	72,667	(178,663)
Transaction charges	(13)	(23)
Currency losses	(18,697)	(13,935)
Net capital losses	(90,152)	(68,753)

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

for the year ended 15 September 2023

4. Revenue

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Non-taxable dividends	14,125	39,409
Taxable dividends	472	840
Interest on debt securities	100,530	72,271
Bank interest	12,191	932
Non-taxable stock dividends	–	264
Total revenue	127,318	113,716

5. Expenses

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Payable to the ACD, associates of the ACD and agents of either of them:		
Annual Management Charge	35,801	41,503
Rebate of Annual Management Charge	(1,777)	(1,503)
Typesetting costs	3	3
Registration fees	100	100
	34,127	40,103
Payable to the Depositary, associates of the Depositary and agents of either of them:		
Depositary's fees	248	259
Safe custody and other bank charges	144	175
	392	434
Other expenses:		
Publication costs	3	6
Legal and professional fees	–	8
Portfolio monitoring fees	5	5
	8	19
Total expenses	34,527	40,556

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

for the year ended 15 September 2023

The Investment Manager's fees and expenses (plus VAT thereon) for providing investment management services are paid by the ACD out of its remuneration.

From 1 March 2015 the ACD pays the legal and professional fees in relation to KIID production costs and audit fees of the Fund on a discretionary basis. Audit fees for the current year are £12,600 plus VAT (15.09.22: £11,350 plus VAT).

6. Taxation

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
a) Analysis of charge for the year		
Corporation tax at 20%	–	–
Overseas tax	452	2,712
Current tax charge	452	2,712
Deferred tax – origination and reversal of timing differences (note 6c)	–	–
Total taxation (note 6b)	452	2,712

b) Factors affecting the tax charge for the year

The tax assessed for the year differs from the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK for an authorised fund (20%) (15.09.22: 20%). The difference is explained below:

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Net revenue before taxation	61,043	66,497
Corporation tax at 20%	12,209	13,299
Effects of:		
Non-taxable dividends	(2,825)	(7,935)
RPI movement on UK index-linked gilts	(12,445)	(9,957)
Prior year adjustment	(1,133)	(448)
Foreign tax expensed	(14)	(25)
Unutilised excess management expenses	4,208	5,066
Corporation tax charge	–	–
Overseas tax	452	2,712
Total tax charge (note 6a)	452	2,712

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

for the year ended 15 September 2023

c) Deferred tax

At the year end there is a potential deferred tax asset of £63,423,000 (15.09.22: £59,215,000) in relation to surplus management expenses. It is unlikely that the Fund will generate sufficient taxable profits in the future to utilise this amount and, therefore, no deferred tax asset has been recognised in the current or prior year.

7. Interest Payable and Similar Charges

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Interest payable	751	646
Interest payable on short dividends	30,997	6,017
Total interest payable and similar charges	31,748	6,663

8. Distributions

The distributions take account of revenue received on the issue of shares and revenue deducted on redemption of shares, and comprise:

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Interim	44,781	33,496
Final	29,828	55,055
	74,609	88,551
Add: Revenue deducted on redemption of shares	4,756	3,855
Deduct: Revenue received on issue of shares	(927)	(4,368)
Add: Revenue deducted on in-specie transfer	–	2,508
Net distributions for the year	78,438	90,546

Details of the distributions per share are set out in the table on pages 126 to 130.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

for the year ended 15 September 2023

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Distributions represented by:		
Net revenue after taxation	60,591	63,785
Allocations to capital:		
Annual Management Charge, net of rebate and tax relief	17,907	26,762
Equalisation on conversions ¹	(60)	(1)
Net distributions for the year	<u>78,438</u>	<u>90,546</u>

9. Debtors

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Amounts receivable for issue of shares	–	4,965
Sales awaiting settlement	2,071	27,347
Accrued revenue:		
Non-taxable dividends	964	1,093
Interest from debt securities	7,273	7,464
	8,237	8,557
Taxation recoverable:		
Overseas withholding tax	216	143
Amounts due from brokers	<u>99,674</u>	<u>111,147</u>
Total debtors	<u>110,198</u>	<u>152,159</u>

¹ Where an investor converts to a class with a higher income yield, the investor will receive an equalisation as if they had held the new class throughout the period from the last distribution to the conversion date. The yield differential at the point of conversion is an equalisation which will be offset by capital erosion for the converted investor.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

for the year ended 15 September 2023

10. Cash and Bank Balances

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Bank balances	155,809	247,465
Total cash and bank balances	155,809	247,465

11. Creditors

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Distribution payable	11,385	18,220
Other Creditors		
Amounts payable for redemption of shares	8,135	4,414
Purchases awaiting settlement	518	12,813
Accrued expenses:		
Amounts payable to the ACD, associates of the ACD and agents of either of them:		
Annual Management Charge, net of rebate	3,336	4,847
Legal and professional fees	–	1
Typesetting costs	3	1
Registration fees	13	13
	3,352	4,862
Amounts payable to the Depositary, associates of the Depositary and agents of either of them:		
Depositary's fees	30	32
Transaction charges	2	4
Safe custody and other bank charges	34	40
	66	76
Other expenses	–	5

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** continued**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS** continued

for the year ended 15 September 2023

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Amounts due to brokers	9,130	30,423
Total other creditors	21,201	52,593

12. Related Party Transactions

The Annual Management Charge, net of rebate, payable to Waystone Management (UK) Limited ('WMUK') ('the ACD'), registration fees payable to Link Fund Administrators Limited and typesetting costs payable to Link Alternative Fund Administrators Limited (both companies are associates of the ACD) are disclosed in note 5 and amounts due at the year end are disclosed in note 11.

The aggregate monies received by the ACD through the issue of shares and paid on redemption of shares are disclosed in the Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders on page 107 and amounts due at the year end are disclosed in notes 9 and 11.

WMUK and its associates (including other authorised investment funds managed by WMUK or its associates) held 4,684,879 (15.09.22: 5,219,602) of the Fund's shares at the balance sheet date.

A shareholder may be able to exercise significant influence over the financial and operating policies of the Fund and as such is deemed to be a related party. At the balance sheet date the following shareholder held in excess of 20% of the shares in issue of the Fund:

RBC IS GFP Ruffer 21.93% (15.09.22: 27.50%)

As part of the investment strategy, the Fund may from time to time hold shares in other collective investment schemes managed by the same Investment Manager or for which WMUK is also the ACD. At the balance sheet date the value of the holdings was as follows:

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Investment Manager in common	57,070	57,867
Investment Manager and ACD in common	72,896	109,557

13. Contingent Liabilities and Commitments

There are no contingent liabilities or unrecorded outstanding commitments (15.09.22: none).

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

for the year ended 15 September 2023

14. Shares in Issue

	I Income	I Accumulation	C Income	C Accumulation
Annual Management Charge	1.00%	1.00%	1.20%	1.20%
Opening shares in issue	214,712,739	97,071,541	80,322,395	197,615,344
Issues	20,148,531	2,379,675	2,997,259	6,899,649
Redemptions	(18,830,428)	(29,380,361)	(11,639,421)	(31,275,711)
Conversions	(85,202,987)	44,291,918	2,431,660	12,203,659
Closing shares in issue	<u>130,827,855</u>	<u>114,362,773</u>	<u>74,111,893</u>	<u>185,442,941</u>

	H Income	H Accumulation	J Income	J Accumulation
Annual Management Charge	1.10%	1.10%	0.90%	0.90%
Opening shares in issue	10,961,197	11,165,377	83	61,359,873
Issues	393,721	–	7,446,817	407,110
Redemptions	(1,150)	(2,643,788)	(7,698,374)	(43,257,250)
Conversions	(9,254,607)	(1,579,849)	108,826,381	(3,478,607)
Closing shares in issue	<u>2,099,161</u>	<u>6,941,740</u>	<u>108,574,907</u>	<u>15,031,126</u>

	K Income	K Accumulation
Annual Management Charge	0.85%	0.85%
Opening shares in issue	83	54
Issues	–	–
Redemptions	–	–
Conversions	–	–
Closing shares in issue	<u>83</u>	<u>54</u>

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

15. Risk Management Policies

In pursuing the investment objective a number of financial instruments are held which may comprise securities and other investments, cash balances and debtors and creditors that arise directly from operations. Derivatives, such as futures or forward currency contracts, may be utilised for Efficient Portfolio Management (including hedging) and investment purposes.

The main risks from the Fund’s holding of financial instruments, together with the ACD’s policy for managing these risks, are set out below:

The ACD has in place a Risk Management Policy and Procedures Document (‘RMPPD’) that sets out the risks that may impact a fund and how the ACD seeks, where appropriate, to manage, monitor and mitigate those risks, and in particular those risks associated with the use of derivatives. The RMPPD sets out both the framework and the risk mitigations operated by the ACD in managing the identified risks of the Fund. The ACD requires that the appointed Investment Manager to the Fund has in place its own governance structure, policies and procedures that are commensurate with its regulatory obligations and the risks posed by the fund managed.

(A) CREDIT RISK

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty may be unable or unwilling to make a payment or fulfil contractual obligations. This may be in terms of an actual default or by deterioration in a counterparty’s credit quality.

Certain transactions in securities that the Fund enters into expose it to the risk that the counterparty will not deliver the investment for a purchase, or cash for a sale after the Fund has fulfilled its obligations. As part of its due diligence process, the ACD undertakes a review of the controls operated over counterparties by the Investment Manager, including initial and ongoing due diligence and business volumes placed with each counterparty. In cases which are dependent on the counterparty settling at the transaction’s maturity date, the ACD has policies in place which set out the minimum credit quality expected of a market counterparty or deposit taker at the outset of the transaction.

The bond investments held are exposed to credit risk which reflects the ability of the issuer to meet its obligations. The ACD monitors the credit rating of bond holdings.

Credit Quality	15.09.23 %	15.09.22 %
Investment grade debt securities	48.62	70.03
Non-investment grade debt securities	–	2.65
Non-rated debt securities	17.36	0.66
Other investments	25.81	17.43
Net other assets	8.21	9.23
	<u>100.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

for the year ended 15 September 2023

There were forward currency contracts, futures, credit default swaps and options held at the balance sheet date. Details of individual contracts are disclosed separately in the Portfolio Statement and the total position by counterparty at the balance sheet date was as follows:

15.09.23 Counterparty ¹	Forward currency contracts £'000	Credit default swaps £'000	Options £'000	Net cash collateral pledged £'000
BNY Mellon	(6,687)	–	–	–
Citibank	–	–	510	(680)
JPMorgan	–	–	8,294	(8,000)
Morgan Stanley	–	(44,217)	274	(450)

15.09.22 Counterparty	Forward currency contracts £'000	Credit default swaps £'000	Options £'000	Net cash collateral pledged £'000
Barclays	–	–	1,550	–
BNY Mellon	(90,036)	–	–	–
Citibank	–	–	2,666	(2,780)
Goldman Sachs	–	(428)	–	–
JPMorgan	–	–	26,937	(24,510)
Morgan Stanley	–	(9,045)	784	(790)
NatWest	–	–	785	(2,390)

Refer to the Portfolio Statement for exposure to counterparties obtained through the use of derivatives.

(B) INTEREST RATE RISK

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of the Fund's investments will fluctuate as a result of interest rate changes. The value of fixed interest securities may be affected by changes in interest rates, either globally or locally. Changes in the rate of return in one asset class may influence the valuation basis of other classes. The amount of revenue receivable from floating rate investments and bank balances or payable on bank overdrafts will be affected by fluctuations in interest rates. Investment in collective investment schemes may expose the Fund to indirect interest rate risk to the extent that they may invest in interest bearing securities, the returns from which will be affected by fluctuations in interest rates.

¹ Listed options and futures are excluded.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

for the year ended 15 September 2023

The Fund takes on interest rate risk within its investment portfolio where the ACD and Investment Manager believe that the expected return compensates for the overall risk. The ACD and Investment Manager continue to monitor the level of direct interest rate risk posed by the Fund's underlying investments on a regular basis using the DV01 method. As at 15 September 2023 a one basis point change in the yield would have an impact of £779,000 on the direct net assets of the Fund (15.09.22: £202,000).

The table below shows the direct interest rate risk profile:

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Floating rate investments	1,201,476	1,985,005
Fixed rate investments	674,053	576,793
Investments on which interest is not paid	786,455	720,091
Investment liabilities on which interest is not paid	(52,830)	(117,646)
Total investments	<u>2,609,154</u>	<u>3,164,243</u>

The floating rate investments comprise securities that earn interest at rates adjusted by changes in the UK Retail Prices Index (RPI) or its international equivalents.

Investments on which interest is not paid include equities, collective investment schemes, options and forward currency contracts.

(C) FOREIGN CURRENCY RISK

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the Sterling value of investments will fluctuate as a result of exchange rate movements. Assets denominated in currencies other than Sterling will provide direct exposure to currency risk as a consequence of the movement in foreign exchange rates when calculating the Sterling equivalent value. Forward currency contracts are employed by the Investment Manager, where deemed appropriate, to mitigate the foreign exchange risk. Investment in collective investment schemes may provide indirect exposure to currency risk as a consequence of the movement in foreign exchange rates.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

The table below shows the direct foreign currency risk profile:

	15.09.23 Gross £'000	15.09.23 Hedged £'000	15.09.23 Net £'000
Currency:			
Australian dollars	181,790	–	181,790
Canadian dollars	4,641	–	4,641
Euros	124,521	(129,562)	(5,041)
Hong Kong dollars	37,814	–	37,814
Japanese yen	511,289	–	511,289
Sri Lankan rupees	10	–	10
Swiss francs	2,230	–	2,230
US dollars	1,409,657	(1,072,906)	336,751
	<u>2,271,952</u>	<u>(1,202,468)</u>	<u>1,069,484</u>
Pounds sterling	577,310	1,195,781	1,773,091
Net assets	<u>2,849,262</u>	<u>(6,687)</u>	<u>2,842,575</u>

	15.09.22 Gross £'000	15.09.22 Hedged £'000	15.09.22 Net £'000
Currency:			
Australian dollars	209,044	–	209,044
Brazilian real	115,357	–	115,357
Canadian dollars	680	–	680
Euros	177,217	(129,891)	47,326
Japanese yen	339,177	–	339,177
Norwegian krone	1,716	–	1,716
Sri Lankan rupees	1,233	–	1,233
Swiss francs	3,965	–	3,965
US dollars	3,000,064	(2,668,277)	331,787
	<u>3,848,453</u>	<u>(2,798,168)</u>	<u>1,050,285</u>
Pounds sterling	(265,363)	2,708,132	2,442,769
Net assets	<u>3,583,090</u>	<u>(90,036)</u>	<u>3,493,054</u>

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

for the year ended 15 September 2023

A 5% change in the pounds Sterling exchange rate against all other currencies, assuming all other factors remained the same, would have an impact of £53,474,000 on the net assets of the Fund (15.09.22: £48,402,000).

(D) LIQUIDITY RISK

The main liability of the Fund is the redemption of any shares that investors want to sell. Investments may have to be sold to fund such redemptions should insufficient cash be held at the bank to meet this obligation. The ACD monitors the liquidity profile of the Fund daily.

In assessing the liquidity profile of the Fund, the ACD assesses how much of the Fund can be realised in one and five days, under normal and stressed market conditions, and the impact this would have on the overall subsequent liquidity profile.

In assessing the liquidity of a company's shares, the ACD utilises the lower of the 5 and 20 day average market volume of that company's shares. An in depth review takes place by assessing the liquidity profile of the Fund against a 25% market participation of the average daily volume.

Based on this analysis 86.72% of the portfolio can be liquidated within 5 days and 88.13% within 21 working days (15.09.22: 93.64% within 5 days and 93.93% within 21 days). Given this and the ACD's understanding of the investor base, it is considered that the liquidity profile of the Fund is appropriate.

All financial liabilities are payable in one year or less, or on demand.

(E) MARKET PRICE RISK

Market price risk is the risk that the value of the Fund's financial instruments will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices caused by factors other than interest rate or foreign currency movement. Market price risk arises primarily from uncertainty about the future prices of financial instruments that the Fund holds.

Market price risk represents the potential loss the Fund may suffer through holding market positions in the face of price movements. The Fund's investment portfolio is exposed to price fluctuations, which are monitored by the ACD in pursuance of the investment objective and policy. The risk is generally regarded as consisting of two elements – stock specific risk and market risk. Adhering to investment guidelines and avoiding excessive exposure to one particular issuer can limit stock specific risk. Subject to compliance with the investment objective, spreading exposure across a broad range of global stocks can mitigate market risk.

A 5% increase in the value of the Fund's portfolio, excluding forward currency contracts would have the effect of increasing the return and net assets by £130,792,000 (15.09.22: £162,714,000). A 5% decrease would have an equal and opposite effect.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

for the year ended 15 September 2023

(F) DERIVATIVES

During the year the Fund employed a number of derivative strategies to provide protection against perceived risks to the value of assets held in the portfolio. These were:

Currency put options – Put options were taken out to protect the value of the portfolio against the effects of a weakening of relevant currencies.

Equity index put options and spreads – During the year the portfolio held put options on the S&P 500 Index to protect the portfolio from the risk of a fall in the value of the equity markets.

VIX call options and futures – Held for protection against an increase in equity market volatility.

Swaps on credit indices – Held for protection against credit conditions worsening.

Interest rate swaptions – Purchased to offset the duration exposure of index-linked bond positions.

The intention in using the forward currency contracts is to reduce the risk profile of the Fund by managing the exposure of the Fund to foreign exchange risk and leave the Fund primarily exposed to the underlying market risk of overseas investments. Therefore where the value of overseas investments falls due to currency movements, the forward currency contracts generate a gain and vice versa.

The ACD assesses the market risk of the Fund's investments on a daily basis, including any derivative exposure, using the Monte Carlo Value at Risk ('VaR') methodology against the regulatory limit of a daily VaR limit of 4.47%. A confidence interval of 99% and a time horizon of 1 day are used as standard. This process provides the ACD with an estimate of the maximum potential loss that could be expected to occur as a result of changes in market prices over a day in all but a given percentage of circumstances (1% in this case).

For example, based on 99% daily VaR of 5% one would expect to see a daily performance of less than (5)% only in one out of a hundred trading days. The highest and lowest VaR were 9.40% and 3.42% respectively, with an average VaR of 5.72% (15.09.22: the highest and lowest VaR was 5.04% and 2.61% respectively with an average VaR of 3.58%). The VaR of the Fund at 15 September 2023 was 5.51% (15.09.22: 3.94%). It should be noted that VaR is only an indication of risk and actual price movements may prove to be less or more volatile than expected.

Leverage of the Fund as at 15 September 2023 was 175.51% (15.09.22: 400.33%), calculated under the sum of notionals methodology.

Refer to note 3 for the impact of derivatives and forward currency contracts in the year and to the Portfolio Statement for the position of derivatives and forward currency contracts held at the year end.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

for the year ended 15 September 2023

16. Portfolio Transaction Costs

15.09.23	Purchases/ sales before transaction costs £'000	Commissions £'000	Taxes £'000	Gross purchases/ net sales £'000
Ordinary shares	535,637	184	415	536,236
Collective investment schemes	508,916	57	–	508,973
Debt securities	3,464,999	–	–	3,464,999
Purchases total	<u>4,509,552</u>	<u>241</u>	<u>415</u>	<u>4,510,208</u>
Transaction cost % of purchases total		0.01%	0.01%	
Transaction cost % of average NAV		0.01%	0.01%	
Ordinary shares	681,843	(227)	(15)	681,601
Collective investment schemes	200,111	(21)	–	200,090
Debt securities	4,060,234	–	–	4,060,234
Sales total	<u>4,942,188</u>	<u>(248)</u>	<u>(15)</u>	<u>4,941,925</u>
Transaction cost % of sales total		0.01%	–	
Transaction cost % of average NAV		0.01%	–	

Average portfolio dealing spread at 15.09.23 is 0.08% (15.09.22: 0.06%).

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

for the year ended 15 September 2023

15.09.22	Purchases/ sales before transaction costs £'000	Commissions £'000	Taxes £'000	Gross purchases/ net sales £'000
Ordinary shares	1,295,043	437	1,134	1,296,614
Collective investment schemes	237,036	30	–	237,066
Debt securities	3,066,641	–	–	3,066,641
Purchases total	<u>4,598,720</u>	<u>467</u>	<u>1,134</u>	<u>4,600,321</u>
Transaction cost % of purchases total		0.01%	0.02%	
Transaction cost % of average NAV		0.01%	0.03%	
Ordinary shares	2,347,642	(919)	(30)	2,346,693
Collective investment schemes	443,144	(30)	–	443,115
Debt securities	1,601,685	–	–	1,601,685
Sales total	<u>4,392,471</u>	<u>(949)</u>	<u>(30)</u>	<u>4,391,493</u>
Transaction cost % of sales total		0.02%	–	
Transaction cost % of average NAV		0.03%	–	

The collective investment schemes include exchange traded commodities.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

for the year ended 15 September 2023

17. Fair Value Hierarchy

Investments are categorised into the following levels based on their fair value measurement:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted price in an active market for an identical instrument;

Level 2: Valuation techniques using observable inputs other than quoted prices within Level 1;

Level 3: Valuation techniques using unobservable inputs (see note 1(F) of the Accounting Policies).

15.09.23	Level 1 £'000	Level 2 £'000	Level 3 £'000	Total £'000
Investment assets	2,338,873	323,111	–	2,661,984
Investment liabilities	(188)	(52,642)	–	(52,830)

15.09.22	Level 1 £'000	Level 2 £'000	Level 3 £'000	Total £'000
Investment assets	2,935,329	346,560	–	3,281,889
Investment liabilities	(14,652)	(102,994)	–	(117,646)

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

DISTRIBUTION TABLE

for the year ended 15 September 2023 – in pence per share

EQUALISATION

Equalisation applies only to shares purchased during the distribution period (Group 2 shares – the applicable distribution periods for each distribution are shown below). It represents the accrued revenue included in the purchase price of the shares. After averaging it is returned with the distribution as a capital repayment. It is not liable to Income Tax but must be deducted from the cost of the shares for Capital Gains Tax purposes.

Group 2	Interim	Final
From	16.09.22	16.03.23
To	15.03.23	15.09.23

I INCOME SHARES

Interim	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Paid 15.05.23	Paid 15.05.22
Group 1	4.9241	–	4.9241	3.5822
Group 2	3.3903	1.5338	4.9241	3.5822

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Payable 15.11.23	Paid 15.11.22
Group 1	3.6511	–	3.6511	5.7078
Group 2	1.6687	1.9824	3.6511	5.7078

I ACCUMULATION SHARES

Interim	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocated 15.05.23	Allocated 15.05.22
Group 1	7.9037	–	7.9037	5.6042
Group 2	3.8242	4.0795	7.9037	5.6042

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocation 15.11.23	Allocated 15.11.22
Group 1	5.9350	–	5.9350	9.0158
Group 2	2.6928	3.2422	5.9350	9.0158

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

DISTRIBUTION TABLE continued

O INCOME SHARES¹

Interim	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Paid 15.05.23	Paid 15.05.22
Group 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.2853
Group 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.2853

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Payable 15.11.23	Paid 15.11.22
Group 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.2199
Group 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.2199

O ACCUMULATION SHARES¹

Interim	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocated 15.05.23	Allocated 15.05.22
Group 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.1399
Group 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.1399

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocation 15.11.23	Allocated 15.11.22
Group 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.2448
Group 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.2448

S INCOME SHARES¹

Interim	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Paid 15.05.23	Paid 15.05.22
Group 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.5894
Group 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.5894

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Payable 15.11.23	Paid 15.11.22
Group 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.7155
Group 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.7155

¹ O Income, O Accumulation and S Income share classes converted into either the C or I share classes on 16 November 2022.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

DISTRIBUTION TABLE continued

S ACCUMULATION SHARES¹

Interim	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocated 15.05.23	Allocated 15.05.22
Group 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.6204
Group 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.6204

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocation 15.11.23	Allocated 15.11.22
Group 1	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.0350
Group 2	N/A	N/A	N/A	9.0350

C INCOME SHARES

Interim	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Paid 15.05.23	Paid 15.05.22
Group 1	4.6404	–	4.6404	3.3806
Group 2	1.7498	2.8906	4.6404	3.3806

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Payable 15.11.23	Paid 15.11.22
Group 1	3.4351	–	3.4351	5.3790
Group 2	1.6775	1.7576	3.4351	5.3790

C ACCUMULATION SHARES

Interim	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocated 15.05.23	Allocated 15.05.22
Group 1	7.4408	–	7.4408	5.2881
Group 2	2.7316	4.7092	7.4408	5.2881

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocation 15.11.23	Allocated 15.11.22
Group 1	5.5810	–	5.5810	8.4878
Group 2	3.0969	2.4841	5.5810	8.4878

¹ S Accumulation share classes converted into either the C or I share classes on 16 November 2022.

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

DISTRIBUTION TABLE continued

H INCOME SHARES

Interim	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Paid 15.05.23	Paid 15.05.22
Group 1	4.9314	–	4.9314	3.5824
Group 2	0.3246	4.6068	4.9314	3.5824

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Payable 15.11.23	Paid 15.11.22
Group 1	3.6463	–	3.6463	5.7036
Group 2	3.6463	0.0000	3.6463	5.7036

H ACCUMULATION SHARES

Interim	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocated 15.05.23	Allocated 15.05.22
Group 1	7.8725	–	7.8725	5.5869
Group 2	7.8725	0.0000	7.8725	5.5869

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocation 15.11.23	Allocated 15.11.22
Group 1	5.9107	–	5.9107	8.9862
Group 2	5.9107	0.0000	5.9107	8.9862

J INCOME SHARES

Interim	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Paid 15.05.23	Paid 15.05.22
Group 1	4.8978	–	4.8978	3.6144
Group 2	1.9394	2.9584	4.8978	3.6144

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Payable 15.11.23	Paid 15.11.22
Group 1	3.6711	–	3.6711	5.6385
Group 2	1.8578	1.8133	3.6711	5.6385

WS RUFFER TOTAL RETURN FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

DISTRIBUTION TABLE continued

J ACCUMULATION SHARES

Interim	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocated 15.05.23	Allocated 15.05.22
Group 1	7.9297	–	7.9297	5.6182
Group 2	0.5827	7.3470	7.9297	5.6182

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocation 15.11.23	Allocated 15.11.22
Group 1	5.9588	–	5.9588	9.0278
Group 2	1.6977	4.2611	5.9588	9.0278

K INCOME SHARES

Interim	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Paid 15.05.23	Paid 15.05.22
Group 1	4.7831	–	4.7831	3.6265
Group 2	4.7831	0.0000	4.7831	3.6265

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Payable 15.11.23	Paid 15.11.22
Group 1	3.4819	–	3.4819	5.6385
Group 2	3.4819	0.0000	3.4819	5.6385

K ACCUMULATION SHARES

Interim	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocated 15.05.23	Allocated 15.05.22
Group 1	7.6851	–	7.6851	5.6666
Group 2	7.6851	0.0000	7.6851	5.6666

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocation 15.11.23	Allocated 15.11.22
Group 1	5.6851	–	5.6851	8.8888
Group 2	5.6851	0.0000	5.6851	8.8888

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND ACD'S REPORT

for the year ended 15 September 2023

Important Information

Refer to the 'Important Information' section on pages 6 and 7.

Investment Objective and Policy

The investment objective of WS Ruffer Gold Fund ('the Fund') is to seek to achieve capital growth over the longer term (at least seven years), after all costs and charges have been taken.

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

The investment policy of the Fund is to invest both directly and indirectly at least 70% of its total assets by value, in equity or equity related securities in gold and precious metal related companies.

The Fund may also invest up to 30% of its total assets by value in commodities (such as precious metals), investment grade and non-investment grade (including non-rated) bonds (corporate and government), equities (including equity related securities), treasury bills, money market instruments, deposits and cash.

The Fund may gain exposure to these asset classes directly by investing in securities issued by companies and governments, and indirectly by investing in other permissible transferable securities and collective investment schemes and derivatives. Indirect investments may include instruments managed or advised by the ACD or the Investment Manager or their associates. Exposure to commodities will be through indirect investments only. For reasons such as operational efficiency and market access, the Fund may access a specific investment indirectly by holding a structured product. Structured products are a type of investment where the return depends on the performance of a specific financial market or specific asset(s).

Investments in collective investment schemes is limited to 10% of total assets by value.

The Fund can invest across different geographic regions (including emerging markets) and market capitalisations without limitation.

Derivatives may be used for both investment and efficient portfolio management purposes, including hedging. Derivative usage may be used to indirectly gain exposure to currencies, interest rates and volatility markets but otherwise will be limited to contracts relating to the asset classes noted above. This may include structured products.

The limits referenced above will not apply under extraordinary market conditions. Examples of extraordinary market conditions include economic, political unrest or instability and world events leading to high market valuations, market instability or any events which give rise to high downside risk. During such periods, the Fund may temporarily invest up to 75% of its total assets in cash, deposits, treasury bills, government bonds or money market instruments.

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

Benchmark

The Fund's comparator benchmark is the FTSE Gold Mines Index TR (£).

The Fund's performance may be compared against the following index (referred to as 'comparator benchmark'): FTSE Gold Mines Index TR (£). The ACD believes this is an appropriate comparator benchmark given the investment objective and policy of the Fund. The ACD considers it may assist investors in evaluating the Fund's performance against an index of shares of companies whose principal activity is the mining of gold. The Fund is not constrained by the comparator benchmark and may take positions that differ significantly from the comparator benchmark, as a result the performance of the Fund may differ from the comparator benchmark.

WAYSTONE MANAGEMENT (UK) LIMITED

ACD of WS Ruffer Gold Fund

12 January 2024

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

for the year ended 15 September 2023

Over the period from the 16 September 2022 to 15 September 2023 the net asset value per share of the Fund's C Accumulation shares¹ increased by 8.5% which underperformed the FTSE Gold Mines Total Return Index by 7.8%. Over the same period gold rose by 15.6%¹ in US dollars but by 7.0%² in sterling.

The gold price found a floor at around \$1,625 per oz in the September to November 2022 period, although macro factors still seemed to be against gold at this time. The gold price then rallied through year end before falling back in February. The sudden US banking crisis in March shifted sentiment in favour of gold. However, following resolution of the banking crisis gold has been under pressure. Positive US economic data and hawkish commentary by FOMC board members has pushed back expectations for an imminent fall in interest rates. Towards the end of the period, confidence has built that the US economy would achieve a "soft landing" and avoid a recession. Nominal and real yields on longer term US bonds have recovered to levels last seen before the GFC.

A feature of this year has been very high central bank purchases of gold. The reasons for this have not been communicated but it seems likely that the weaponisation of the US dollar in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine has increased the attractiveness of gold as a reserve currency relative to the US dollar for some central banks. Central bank buying appears to have been the key driver for the relative strength of gold in the context of rapidly rising interest rates.

Given the very healthy gold price over the period, the performance of the gold miners has been rather lacklustre. This is likely because the poor operating performance and unpleasant surprises delivered by miners through 2022 has dented the confidence of potential investors in the sector and made investors inclined to strongly prefer an investment in gold to an investment in a gold miner. This is particularly true of smaller, more obscure miners in which the Fund tends to be overweight and this largely explains the underperformance of the Fund compared to the benchmark over the period.

A number of factors contributed to the poor operating performance of the miners during 2022 but the root causes were typically supply chain shortages following the emergence from COVID exacerbated by the impact of sanctions on Russia following its invasion of Ukraine. Mines struggled to hit production targets because of the unavailability of labour or spare parts and suffered high cost inflation due to sharp rises in raw material costs (as well as labour costs). Lower production and higher costs combined together to give eye-wateringly high increases in unit costs in many cases. As we have progressed through the period these pressures have abated commodity prices, most importantly oil, have fallen and the most acute labour shortages have eased. We are yet to see this clearly in the published results of the miners though because production budgets this year are mostly back-end weighted (as they typically are!).

Sterling strength over the period has been a significant headwind for the Fund as the US dollar has fallen back from its highs as rates have been raised outside of the US.

¹ Bloomberg.

² Refinitiv.

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT continued

Investment Outlook

We remain optimistic about the long-term outlook for the gold price as we believe that ultimately the rapid rise in interest rates will expose the frailties in the financial system fostered by the prolonged period of easy money. However, the resilience of the US economy to higher interest rates has been a surprise. If this continues and long term US bond yields continue to rise then the gravitational pull on gold will be increasingly strong. Central bank investment has been a significant positive over the past year, supporting the gold price at a higher level than would have been projected by US dollar and real interest rate correlations. Whilst we do not have much insight into the decision-making process at the central banks which have been buying, it seems reasonable to assume that the sanctions applied to the Russian central bank following Russia's invasion of Ukraine have increased the attractiveness of gold as a reserve currency for some.

We believe the gold mining sector is more attractive than the market appreciates. Gold mining stocks never priced in the high gold prices we have seen this year and we believe they have now largely addressed the cost inflation and operational difficulties which plagued 2022. As result we believe that, whilst there is significant risk in the short term due to the rise in US bond yields, gold mining stocks can significantly outperform gold over the medium term.

RUFFER LLP

Investment Manager

5 October 2023

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND
ACD’S REPORT continued
FUND INFORMATION

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 lowest number on the scale does not mean that a fund is risk free.

The Fund has been classed as 7 because its volatility has been measured as 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.

Currency Risk: As the Fund can be exposed to different currencies, changes in exchange rates may decrease the value of your investment.

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.

Emerging Markets Risk: The Fund may invest in emerging markets, which are markets in countries that are developing. Emerging markets may have more political and economic risks than developed markets, resulting in price movements that may cause a loss to the Fund.

Changes in Interest Rate Risk: A rise in interest rates generally cause 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: The Fund may invest in assets where, in difficult market conditions, there is an increased risk that a position cannot be bought or sold in a timely manner or at a reasonable price and the Manager may suspend dealing in the Fund.

Derivatives Risk: A derivative may not perform as expected and may create losses greater than its cost.

Alternative Investment Risk: The Fund may invest in other investment vehicles to gain indirect exposure to alternative assets such as property and precious metals.

Exposure to such investments can involve a higher degree of risk that may increase the risk of investment loss. The performance of such vehicles can be volatile and there is a risk that investors may experience a delay in receiving redemption proceeds.

For full details of the Fund’s risks, please see the Prospectus which may be obtained upon application and can be found on the ACD’s website, www.waystone.com.

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

FUND INFORMATION continued

Comparative Tables

I ACCUMULATION SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	15.09.23 pence per share	15.09.22 pence per share	15.09.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	224.17	261.36	383.56
Return before operating charges*	33.10	(34.30)	(119.06)
Operating charges	(2.66)	(2.89)	(3.14)
Return after operating charges	30.44	(37.19)	(122.20)
Distributions	(1.61)	(0.75)	–
Retained distributions on accumulation shares	1.61	0.75	–
Closing net asset value per share	254.61	224.17	261.36
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.06	0.12	0.28

PERFORMANCE

Return after charges	13.58%	(14.23)%	(31.86)%
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OTHER INFORMATION

Closing net asset value (£'000)	474,568	397,066	524,404
Closing number of shares	186,386,385	177,129,691	200,644,606
Operating charges	1.05%	1.04%	1.04%
Direct transaction costs	0.02%	0.04%	0.09%

PRICES

Highest share price	296.00	330.30	385.17
Lowest share price	216.03	227.72	257.48

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

FUND INFORMATION continued

Comparative Tables continued

C ACCUMULATION SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	15.09.23 pence per share	15.09.22 pence per share	15.09.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	210.60	246.03	361.79
Return before operating charges*	31.10	(32.19)	(112.23)
Operating charges	(2.98)	(3.24)	(3.53)
Return after operating charges	28.12	(35.43)	(115.76)
Distributions	(1.03)	–	–
Retained distributions on accumulation shares	1.03	–	–
Closing net asset value per share	238.72	210.60	246.03
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.05	0.11	0.26

PERFORMANCE

Return after charges	13.35%	(14.40)%	(32.00)%
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OTHER INFORMATION

Closing net asset value (£'000)	53,016	62,500	135,914
Closing number of shares	22,208,363	29,676,965	55,241,587
Operating charges	1.25%	1.24%	1.24%
Direct transaction costs	0.02%	0.04%	0.09%

PRICES

Highest share price	277.75	310.57	363.31
Lowest share price	202.90	213.94	242.43

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

FUND INFORMATION continued

Comparative Tables continued

C INCOME SHARES

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS PER SHARE	15.09.23 pence per share	15.09.22 pence per share	15.09.21 pence per share
Opening net asset value per share	127.46	148.91	218.97
Return before operating charges*	18.82	(19.49)	(67.92)
Operating charges	(1.80)	(1.96)	(2.14)
Return after operating charges	17.02	(21.45)	(70.06)
Distributions	(0.62)	–	–
Closing net asset value per share	143.86	127.46	148.91
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.03	0.07	0.16

PERFORMANCE

Return after charges	13.35%	(14.40)%	(32.00)%
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OTHER INFORMATION

Closing net asset value (£'000)	3,856	5,527	11,480
Closing number of shares	2,680,331	4,335,939	7,709,232
Operating charges	1.25%	1.24%	1.24%
Direct transaction costs	0.02%	0.04%	0.09%

PRICES

Highest share price	168.11	187.97	219.88
Lowest share price	122.80	129.48	146.72

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND
ACD’S REPORT continued
FUND INFORMATION continued

Fund Performance to 15 September 2023 (%)

	1 year	3 years	5 years
WS Ruffer Gold Fund	8.50	(31.62)	90.72

The performance of the Fund is based on the published price per C 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 the above performance being calculated on the latest published price prior to the year end, rather than the year end return after operating charges.

Details of the distributions per share for the year are shown in the Distribution Table on page 162.

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 RUFFER GOLD FUND
ACD'S REPORT continued
PORTFOLIO STATEMENT
as at 15 September 2023

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	15.09.23 %
	AFRICA – 6.46% (15.09.22 – 8.48%)		
1,440,159	AngloGold Ashanti <i>ADR</i>	20,877	3.93
41,254,131	Pan African Resources <i>GBP</i> ¹	5,875	1.11
53,170,052	Pan African Resources <i>ZAR</i> ¹	7,570	1.42
	TOTAL AFRICA	34,322	6.46
	AUSTRALIA – 21.64% (15.09.22 – 29.43%)		
200,000	Newcrest Mining	2,710	0.51
41,207,605	Ora Banda Mining	2,076	0.39
27,176,807	Perseus Mining	25,479	4.79
160,710,999	Polar X	751	0.14
6,377,420	Polar X 6/11/2023 <i>Warrants</i>	3	–
26,785,166	Polar X <i>rights</i>	125	0.02
10,000,000	Predictive Discovery	1,143	0.22
33,810,191	Ramelius Resources	24,059	4.53
123,550,078	Red5	13,797	2.60
458,757	Richmond Vanadium Technology	94	0.02
17,570,375	Silver Lake Resources	8,761	1.65
2,944,805	St Barbara	291	0.05
201,556	Summit Gold ^{2,3}	–	–
33,427,713	Ten Sixty Four ³	4,948	0.93
135,558,982	Troy Resources ^{2,3}	–	–
33,018,626	Westgold Resources	30,784	5.79
	TOTAL AUSTRALIA	115,021	21.64
	BERMUDA – 0.00% (15.09.22 – 0.23%)	–	–
	CANADA – 52.25% (15.09.22 – 47.22%)		
279,982	Agnico Eagle Mines	11,083	2.09
\$12,500,000	Allied Gold 8.75% 7/9/2028 ⁴	10,084	1.90
1,828,200	Amex Exploration	1,308	0.25
1,173,000	Andean Precious	455	0.09

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND

ACD'S REPORT continuedPORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued

as at 15 September 2023

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	15.09.23 %
2,530,480	Argonaut Gold	921	0.17
5,155,500	Aris Mining	10,455	1.97
16,945,172	Ascot Resources	4,497	0.85
872,110	Aura Minerals	4,535	0.85
3,497,676	B2Gold	9,090	1.71
1,137,720	Barrick Gold	15,263	2.87
5,850,471	Bonterra Resources	576	0.11
1,050,000	Bunker Hill Mining 9/2/2026 Warrants	–	–
1,050,000	Bunker Hill Mining 'placing'	–	–
3,906,000	Calibre Mining	3,378	0.64
3,929,000	Canagold Resources	516	0.10
7,797,150	Centerra Gold	36,506	6.87
2,100,000	Contact Gold 22/11/2023 Warrants	–	–
6,000,000	Denarius Metal 4/4/2026 Warrants	–	–
6,000,000	Denarius Metal 'placing'	1,431	0.27
2,991,002	Dundee Precious Metals	14,699	2.77
1,807,605	Endeavour Mining	29,756	5.60
2,268,940	Fortuna Silver Mines	5,508	1.04
26,378,459	Galiano Gold	12,429	2.34
2,301,996	GoldMining	1,455	0.27
953,831	Integra Resources	677	0.13
16,923,788	Mandalay Resources	21,500	4.04
6,000,000	Marathon Gold	2,612	0.49
21,030,000	Mawson Gold	4,014	0.75
10,220,094	Mundoro Capital	975	0.18
10,700,000	Newcore Gold	702	0.13
8,347,700	Nighthawk Gold	1,693	0.32
2,500,000	Nighthawk Gold 'placing' ^{2,3}	596	0.11
3,571,500	Nighthawk Gold Warrants 3/5/2024	32	0.01
4,630,500	Northern Star Mining ^{2,3}	–	–
2,478,600	O3 Mining	2,040	0.38
9,067,400	OceanaGold	15,359	2.89

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND

ACD'S REPORT continuedPORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued

as at 15 September 2023

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	15.09.23 %
7,000,000	Omai Gold Mines 4/4/2024 Warrants	–	–
1,108,858	Pan American Silver	14,930	2.81
6,175,303	Pan American Silver <i>rights</i> 22/2/2029	2,770	0.52
22,500,000	Rockhaven Resources	738	0.14
42,767,218	Sandfire Resources America	2,041	0.38
1,782,970	Skeena Resources	6,699	1.26
631,259	SSR Mining	7,644	1.44
9,243,500	Strategic Metals	1,323	0.25
36,026,000	Thor Explorations	6,339	1.19
610,300	Torex Gold Resources	5,260	0.99
6,195,923	Troilus Gold	1,404	0.26
9,668,800	West Vault Mining	4,383	0.82
	TOTAL CANADA	<u>277,676</u>	<u>52.25</u>
	GUERNSEY – 0.33% (15.09.22 – 0.33%)		
17,250,000	Shanta Gold	<u>1,768</u>	<u>0.33</u>
	INDONESIA – 0.00% (15.09.22 – 0.09%)	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>
	JERSEY – 0.35% (15.09.22 – 0.00%)		
352,498	Yellow Cake ¹	<u>1,838</u>	<u>0.35</u>
	KYRGYZ REPUBLIC – 0.00% (15.09.22 – 0.04%)	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>
	PERU – 1.12% (15.09.22 – 0.85%)		
6,876,033	Hochschild Mining	<u>5,955</u>	<u>1.12</u>
	RUSSIA – 0.00% (15.09.22 – 0.00%)		
71,236	Surgutneftegas ADR ^{2,3}	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND

ACD'S REPORT continuedPORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued

as at 15 September 2023

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	15.09.23 %
	UNITED KINGDOM – 1.95% (15.09.22 – 2.94%)		
7,404,891	Capital Drilling	5,983	1.13
2,840,756	Gem Diamonds	460	0.09
15,677,863	Hummingbird Resources ¹	1,764	0.33
4,759,700	Trident Royalties ¹	2,142	0.40
	TOTAL UNITED KINGDOM	10,349	1.95
	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – 10.32% (15.09.22 – 8.34%)		
10,678,174	Bunker Hill Mining	924	0.17
2,950,000	Bunker Hill Mining 1/4/2025 Warrants	–	–
6,100,488	Kinross Gold	25,443	4.79
875,383	Newmont Mining	28,481	5.36
	TOTAL UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	54,848	10.32
	OPTIONS – 0.06% (15.09.22 – 1.78%)		
US60,000	iShares Gold ETC P32.75 09/2023	49	0.01
US40,000	iShares Gold ETC P36.25 09/2023	32	0.01
US100,000	iShares Physical Gold ETC P36 10/2023	242	0.04
		323	0.06

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND
ACD'S REPORT continued
PORTFOLIO STATEMENT continued
as at 15 September 2023

Holding	Portfolio of Investments	Value £'000	15.09.23 %
	Portfolio of investments	502,100	94.48
	Net other assets	29,340	5.52
	Net assets	531,440	100.00

The investments have been valued in accordance with note 1(F) of the Accounting Policies and are ordinary shares listed on a regulated market unless stated otherwise.

¹ Quoted on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

² Delisted security.

³ Suspended security.

⁴ Convertible bonds.

Definition:

ADR – American Depositary Receipts.

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND

ACD'S REPORT continued

SUMMARY OF MATERIAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES

for the year ended 15 September 2023

Total purchases for the year £'000 (note 16)	237,870	Total sales for the year £'000 (note 16)	267,738
	Cost		Proceeds
Major purchases	£'000	Major sales	£'000
Newmont Mining	40,101	Kinross Gold	28,576
Barrick Gold	32,560	Emerald Resources	23,535
WisdomTree Brent Crude Oil	20,497	WisdomTree Brent Crude Oil	22,174
Pan American Silver	17,369	Barrick Gold	19,503
Agnico Eagle Mines	14,417	Gold Fields <i>ADR</i>	17,406
Allied Gold 8.75% 7/9/2028	10,084	Perseus Mining	15,575
Gold Fields <i>ADR</i>	9,856	Endeavour Mining	14,420
Allied Gold	9,844	AngloGold Ashanti <i>ADR</i>	12,907
Centerra Gold	7,538	Newmont Mining	10,228
AngloGold Ashanti <i>ADR</i>	6,807	Allied Gold	10,084

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

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN
for the year ended 15 September 2023

	Notes	£'000	15.09.23 £'000	£'000	15.09.22 £'000
Income:					
Net capital gains/(losses)	3		61,320		(74,460)
Revenue	4	9,815		9,998	
Expenses	5	(5,748)		(7,893)	
Interest payable and similar charges	7	(15)		(7)	
Net revenue before taxation		4,052		2,098	
Taxation	6	(841)		(830)	
Net revenue after taxation			3,211		1,268
Total return before distributions			64,531		(73,192)
Distributions	8		(3,226)		(1,339)
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities			61,305		(74,531)

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO SHAREHOLDERS

for the year ended 15 September 2023

	Note	£'000	15.09.23 £'000	£'000	15.09.22 £'000
Opening net assets attributable to shareholders			469,972		678,163
Amounts receivable on issue of shares		65,307		112,258	
Amounts payable on redemption of shares		<u>(68,364)</u>		<u>(248,176)</u>	
			(3,057)		(135,918)
Dilution levy	1(H)		–		921
Change in net assets attributable to shareholders from investment activities			61,305		(74,531)
Retained distributions on Accumulation shares			<u>3,220</u>		<u>1,337</u>
Closing net assets attributable to shareholders			<u>531,440</u>		<u>469,972</u>

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
BALANCE SHEET
as at 15 September 2023

	Notes	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
ASSETS			
Fixed assets			
Investments		502,100	468,682
Current assets			
Debtors	9	4,328	6,177
Cash and bank balances	10	27,605	2,226
Total assets		<u>534,033</u>	<u>477,085</u>
LIABILITIES			
Creditors			
Bank overdraft	10	–	(915)
Distribution payable	11	(17)	–
Other creditors	11	(2,576)	(6,198)
Total liabilities		<u>(2,593)</u>	<u>(7,113)</u>
Net assets attributable to shareholders		<u>531,440</u>	<u>469,972</u>

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 15 September 2023

1. Accounting Policies

The accounting policies described on pages 18 to 23 have been applied to the financial statements of the Fund in the current and prior year.

2. Distribution Policies

The distribution policies described on page 23 have been applied to the financial statements of the Fund in the current and prior year.

3. Net Capital Gains/(Losses)

The net capital gains/(losses) during the year comprise:

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Non-derivative securities	70,469	(85,489)
Derivative contracts	(8,507)	11,109
Transaction charges	(8)	(10)
AMC rebates from underlying investments	26	–
Currency losses	(660)	(70)
Net capital gains/(losses)	<u>61,320</u>	<u>(74,460)</u>

4. Revenue

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Non-taxable dividends	8,960	9,969
Interest on debt securities	15	–
Bank interest	<u>840</u>	<u>29</u>
Total revenue	<u>9,815</u>	<u>9,998</u>

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

5. Expenses

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Payable to the ACD, associates of the ACD and agents of either of them:		
Annual Management Charge	5,503	7,606
Typesetting costs	3	3
Registration fees	100	100
	5,606	7,709
Payable to the Depositary, associates of the Depositary and agents of either of them:		
Depositary's fees	93	116
Safe custody and other bank charges	43	63
	136	179
Other expenses:		
Publication costs	5	5
Legal and professional fees	1	–
	6	5
Total expenses	5,748	7,893

The Investment Manager's fees and expenses (plus VAT thereon) for providing investment management services are paid by the ACD out of its remuneration.

From 1 March 2015 the ACD pays the legal and professional fees in relation to KIID production costs and audit fees of the Fund on a discretionary basis. Audit fees for the current year are £12,600 plus VAT (15.09.22: £11,350 plus VAT).

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

6. Taxation

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
a) Analysis of charge for the year		
Corporation tax at 20%	–	–
Overseas tax	841	830
Current tax charge	841	830
Deferred tax – origination and reversal of timing differences (note 6c)	–	–
Total taxation (note 6b)	841	830

b) Factors affecting the tax charge for the year

The tax assessed for the year differs from the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK for an authorised fund (20%) (15.09.22: 20%). The difference is explained below:

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Net revenue before taxation	4,052	2,098
Corporation tax at 20%	810	420
Effects of:		
Non-taxable dividends	(1,792)	(1,994)
AMC rebates taken to capital	5	–
Unutilised excess management expenses	977	1,574
Corporation tax charge	–	–
Overseas tax	841	830
Total tax charge (note 6a)	841	830

c) Deferred tax

At the year end there is a potential deferred tax asset of £19,674,000 (15.09.22: £18,697,000) in relation to surplus management expenses. It is unlikely that the Fund will generate sufficient taxable profits in the future to utilise these amount and, therefore, no deferred tax asset has been recognised in the current or prior year.

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

7. Interest Payable and Similar Charges

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Interest payable	15	7
Total interest payable and similar charges	15	7

8. Distributions

The distributions take account of revenue received on the issue of shares and revenue deducted on redemption of shares, and comprise:

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Final	3,237	1,337
	3,237	1,337
Add: Revenue deducted on redemption of shares	130	33
Deduct: Revenue received on issue of shares	(141)	(31)
Net distributions for the year	3,226	1,339

Details of the distributions per share are set out in the table on page 162.

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Distributions represented by:		
Net revenue after taxation	3,211	1,268
Allocations to capital:		
AMC rebates taken to capital	5	–
Revenue deficit	–	68
	5	68
Equalisation on conversions ¹	10	3
Net distributions for the year	3,226	1,339

¹ Where an investor converts to a class with a higher income yield, the investor will receive an equalisation as if they had held the new class throughout the period from the last distribution to the conversion date. The yield differential at the point of conversion is an equalisation which will be offset by capital erosion for the converted investor.

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

9. Debtors

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Sales awaiting settlement	2,562	4,208
Accrued revenue:		
Non-taxable dividends	1,704	1,937
Interest from debt securities	12	–
AMC rebates from underlying investments	26	–
	1,742	1,937
Taxation recoverable:		
Overseas withholding tax	24	32
Total debtors	4,328	6,177

10. Cash and Bank Balances

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Bank balances	27,605	2,226
Total cash and bank balances	27,605	2,226
Bank overdraft	–	915
Total bank overdraft	–	915

11. Creditors

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Distribution payable	17	–
Other Creditors		
Amounts payable for redemption of shares	116	1,542
Purchases awaiting settlement	1,766	2,934

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Accrued expenses:		
Amounts payable to the ACD, associates of the ACD and agents of either of them:		
Annual Management Charge	655	672
Typesetting costs	3	–
Registration fees	13	13
	671	685
Amounts payable to the Depositary, associates of the Depositary and agents of either of them:		
Depositary's fees	11	11
Transaction charges	2	2
Safe custody and other bank charges	10	14
	23	27
Amounts due to brokers	–	1,010
Total other creditors	2,576	6,198

12. Related Party Transactions

The Annual Management Charge payable to Waystone Management (UK) Limited ('WMUK') ('the ACD'), registration fees payable to Link Fund Administrators Limited and typesetting costs payable to Link Alternative Fund Administrators Limited (both companies are associates of the ACD) are disclosed in note 5 and amounts due at the year end are disclosed in note 11.

The aggregate monies received by the ACD through the issue of shares and paid on redemption of shares are disclosed in the Statement of Change in Net Assets Attributable to Shareholders on page 147 and amounts due at the year end are disclosed in note 11.

WMUK and its associates (including other authorised investment funds managed by WMUK or its associates) held 87,762,715 (15.09.22: 67,273,931) of the Fund's shares at the balance sheet date.

A shareholder may be able to exercise significant influence over the financial and operating policies of the Fund and as such is deemed to be a related party. At the balance sheet date the following shareholder held in excess of 20% of the shares in issue of the Fund:

The Bank of New York (Nominees) Limited	52.47% (15.09.22: 31.51%)
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WS RUFFER GOLD FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

13. Contingent Liabilities and Commitments

There are no contingent liabilities or unrecorded outstanding commitments (15.09.22: none).

14. Shares in Issue

	I Accumulation	C Accumulation	C Income
Annual Management Charge	1.00 %	1.20 %	1.20 %
Opening shares in issue	177,129,691	29,676,965	4,335,939
Issues	26,225,517	18,757	68,186
Redemptions	(20,180,663)	(6,750,721)	(1,078,432)
Conversions	3,211,840	(736,638)	(645,362)
Closing shares in issue	<u>186,386,385</u>	<u>22,208,363</u>	<u>2,680,331</u>

15. Risk Management Policies

In pursuing the investment objective a number of financial instruments are held which may comprise securities and other investments, cash balances and debtors and creditors that arise directly from operations. Derivatives, such as futures or forward currency contracts, may be utilised for Efficient Portfolio Management (including hedging) and investment purposes.

The main risks from the Fund's holding of financial instruments, together with the ACD's policy for managing these risks, are set out below:

The ACD has in place a Risk Management Policy and Procedures Document ('RMPPD') that sets out the risks that may impact a fund and how the ACD seeks, where appropriate, to manage, monitor and mitigate those risks, and in particular those risks associated with the use of derivatives. The RMPPD sets out both the framework and the risk mitigations operated by the ACD in managing the identified risks of the Fund. The ACD requires that the appointed Investment Manager to the Fund has in place its own governance structure, policies and procedures that are commensurate with its regulatory obligations and the risks posed by the fund managed.

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

(A) CREDIT RISK

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty may be unable or unwilling to make a payment or fulfil contractual obligations. This may be in terms of an actual default or by deterioration in a counterparty's credit quality.

Certain transactions in securities that the Fund enters into expose it to the risk that the counterparty will not deliver the investment for a purchase, or cash for a sale after the Fund has fulfilled its obligations. As part of its due diligence process, the ACD undertakes a review of the controls operated over counterparties by the Investment Manager, including initial and ongoing due diligence and business volumes placed with each counterparty. In cases which are dependent on the counterparty settling at the transaction's maturity date, the ACD has policies in place which set out the minimum credit quality expected of a market counterparty or deposit taker at the outset of the transaction.

(B) INTEREST RATE RISK

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of the Fund's investments will fluctuate as a result of interest rate changes. The value of fixed interest securities may be affected by changes in interest rates, either globally or locally. Changes in the rate of return in one asset class may influence the valuation basis of other classes. The amount of revenue receivable from floating rate investments and bank balances or payable on bank overdrafts will be affected by fluctuations in interest rates.

As the Fund seeks to obtain its return from investing mainly in equities and has no significant exposure to interest rate risk, no interest rate risk table or sensitivity analysis has been presented.

(C) FOREIGN CURRENCY RISK

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the Sterling value of investments will fluctuate as a result of exchange rate movements. Assets denominated in currencies other than Sterling will provide direct exposure to currency risk as a consequence of the movement in foreign exchange rates when calculating the Sterling equivalent value.

Where the Fund invests in non-Sterling assets, the Investment Manager allows for the foreign currency risk when considering whether to invest and does not seek to hedge this risk.

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

The table below shows the direct foreign currency risk profile:

	15.09.23 £'000	15.09.22 £'000
Currency:		
Australian dollars	116,309	139,301
Brazilian real	4,538	2,100
Canadian dollars	208,801	202,338
Hong Kong dollars	–	443
South African rand	7,570	10,126
Swedish krona	–	425
US dollars	151,027	88,592
	<u>488,245</u>	<u>443,325</u>
Pounds sterling	43,195	26,647
Net assets	<u>531,440</u>	<u>469,972</u>

A 5% change in the pounds Sterling exchange rate against all other currencies, assuming all other factors remained the same, would have an impact of £24,412,000 on the net assets of the Fund (15.09.22: £22,166,000).

(D) LEVERAGE

As at 15 September 2023, leverage under the commitment approach was 8.38% (15.09.22: 30.58%).

(E) LIQUIDITY RISK

The main liability of the Fund is the redemption of any shares that investors want to sell. Investments may have to be sold to fund such redemptions should insufficient cash be held at the bank to meet this obligation. The ACD monitors the liquidity profile of the Fund daily.

In assessing the liquidity profile of the Fund, the ACD assesses how much of the Fund can be realised in one and five days, under normal and stressed market conditions, and the impact this would have on the overall subsequent liquidity profile.

In assessing the liquidity of a company's shares, the ACD utilises the lower of the 5 and 20 day average market volume of that company's shares. An in depth review takes place by assessing the liquidity profile of the Fund against a 25% market participation of the average daily volume.

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

for the year ended 15 September 2023

Based on this analysis 42.48% of the portfolio can be liquidated within 5 days and 68.26% within 21 working days (15.09.22: 33.11% within 5 days and 60.50% within 21 days). Given this and the ACD's understanding of the investor base, it is considered that the liquidity profile of the Fund is appropriate.

All financial liabilities are payable in one year or less, or on demand.

(F) MARKET PRICE RISK

Market price risk is the risk that the value of the Fund's financial instruments will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices caused by factors other than interest rate or foreign currency movement. Market price risk arises primarily from uncertainty about the future prices of financial instruments that the Fund holds.

Market price risk represents the potential loss the Fund may suffer through holding market positions in the face of price movements. The Fund's investment portfolio is exposed to price fluctuations, which are monitored by the ACD in pursuance of the investment objective and policy. The risk is generally regarded as consisting of two elements – stock specific risk and market risk. Adhering to investment guidelines and avoiding excessive exposure to one particular issuer can limit stock specific risk. Subject to compliance with the investment objective, spreading exposure across a broad range of global stocks can mitigate market risk.

A 5% increase in the value of the Fund's portfolio would have the effect of increasing the return and net assets by £25,105,000 (15.09.22: £23,434,000). A 5% decrease would have an equal and opposite effect.

(G) DERIVATIVES

The Investment Manager has employed derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of hedging with the aim of reducing the risk profile of the Fund, or reducing costs, or generating additional capital or income, in accordance with Efficient Portfolio Management (EPM). Due to the relatively simple derivative strategies that may be used by the Fund, the ACD monitors their risk using the commitment approach. The leverage, as measured using the approach, cannot exceed 100%.

During the year, the Fund has employed put options on a small number of individual gold mining stocks to reduce the generic market risk to the portfolio. Put options on the Philadelphia Gold and Silver Index (XAU), a capitalisation-weighted index composed of companies involved in the gold or silver mining industry, were used to reduce the generic equity market risk to the portfolio. Put Options on iShares Physical Gold ETC were used to reduce the portfolio's exposure to movements in the price of Gold.

Refer to note 3 for the impact of derivatives in the year and to the Portfolio Statement for the current position of derivatives held at year end.

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

16. Portfolio Transaction Costs

15.09.23	Purchases/ sales before transaction costs £'000	Commissions £'000	Taxes £'000	Gross purchases/ net sales £'000
Ordinary shares	204,434	45	5	204,484
Collective investment schemes	23,299	3	–	23,302
Debt securities	10,084	–	–	10,084
Purchases total	<u>237,817</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>237,870</u>
Transaction cost % of purchases total		0.02%	–	
Transaction cost % of average NAV		0.01%	–	
Ordinary shares	242,513	(62)	(2)	242,449
Collective investment schemes	<u>25,292</u>	<u>(3)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>25,289</u>
Sales total	<u>267,805</u>	<u>(65)</u>	<u>(2)</u>	<u>267,738</u>
Transaction cost % of sales total		0.02%	–	
Transaction cost % of average NAV		0.01%	–	

Average portfolio dealing spread at 15.09.23 is 1.58% (15.09.22: 1.90%).

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

	Purchases/ sales before transaction costs £'000	Commissions £'000	Taxes £'000	Gross purchases/ net sales £'000
15.09.22				
Ordinary shares	250,764	59	134	250,957
Collective investment schemes	40,971	8	–	40,979
Purchases total	291,735	67	134	291,936
Transaction cost % of purchases total		0.02%	0.05%	
Transaction cost % of average NAV		0.01%	0.02%	
Ordinary shares	345,666	(101)	(2)	345,563
Collective investment schemes	62,355	(13)	–	62,342
Sales total	408,021	(114)	(2)	407,905
Transaction cost % of sales total		0.03%	–	
Transaction cost % of average NAV		0.02%	–	

The collective investment schemes include closed end funds and exchange traded commodities.

17. Fair Value Hierarchy

Investments are categorised into the following levels based on their fair value measurement:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted price in an active market for an identical instrument;

Level 2: Valuation techniques using observable inputs other than quoted prices within Level 1;

Level 3: Valuation techniques using unobservable inputs (see note 1(F) of the Accounting Policies).

	Level 1 £'000	Level 2 £'000	Level 3 £'000	Total £'000
15.09.23				
Investment assets	486,114	10,442	5,544	502,100
15.09.22				
Investment assets	462,741	4,255	1,686	468,682

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued
for the year ended 15 September 2023

18. Subsequent Events

As at 10 January 2024, the price of each of the Fund's share classes, compared to that at the balance sheet date, has moved as follows:

Share class	Balance sheet date	10.01.24	Movement
I Accumulation	247.57	263.89	6.59%
C Accumulation	232.12	247.26	6.52%
C Income	140.49	149.02	6.07%

The increase in the prices is primarily due to favourable market conditions. These accounts were approved on 12 January 2024.

WS RUFFER GOLD FUND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

DISTRIBUTION TABLE

for the year ended 15 September 2023 – in pence per share

EQUALISATION

Equalisation applies only to shares purchased during the distribution period (Group 2 shares – the applicable distribution periods for each distribution are shown below). It represents the accrued revenue included in the purchase price of the shares. After averaging it is returned with the distribution as a capital repayment. It is not liable to Income Tax but must be deducted from the cost of the shares for Capital Gains Tax purposes. Where there is no distribution at interim, the final distribution is deemed to run for the whole year.

Group 2	Final
From	16.09.22
To	15.09.23

I ACCUMULATION SHARES

There were no interim distributions for I Accumulation shares in the current or prior year.

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocation 15.11.23	Allocated 15.11.22
Group 1	1.6050	–	1.6050	0.7547
Group 2	1.1018	0.5032	1.6050	0.7547

C ACCUMULATION SHARES

There were no interim distributions for C Accumulation shares in the current or prior year.

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Allocation 15.11.23	Allocated 15.11.22
Group 1	1.0297	–	1.0297	–
Group 2	0.6782	0.3515	1.0297	–

C INCOME SHARES

There were no interim distributions for C Income shares in the current or prior year.

Final	Net Revenue	Equalisation	Payable 15.11.23	Paid 15.11.22
Group 1	0.6237	–	0.6237	–
Group 2	0.3340	0.2897	0.6237	–

GENERAL INFORMATION

Share Capital

The minimum share capital of the Company is £1 and the maximum is £100,000,000,000.

Structure of the Company

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.

The sub-funds which are currently available are:

WS Ruffer Equity & General Fund

WS Ruffer Total Return Fund

WS Ruffer Gold Fund

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

Classes of Shares

The Company can issue different classes of shares in respect of any 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.

Where a sub-fund has different classes, each class may attract different charges and so monies may be deducted from the Scheme Property attributable to such classes in unequal proportions. In these circumstances, the proportionate interests of the classes within a sub-fund will be adjusted accordingly.

Valuation Point

The current valuation point of each sub-fund is 10.00am (London time) on each Wednesday where this is a business day and the last business day of each month. In the event that a Wednesday is not a business day, such other day as may be agreed between the ACD and Depositary. Valuations may be made at other times under the terms contained within the Prospectus.

GENERAL INFORMATION continued

Buying and Selling Shares

The ACD will accept orders to deal in the shares on each business day 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 601 9610.

Prices

The prices of all C shares are published in the *Financial Times*. The prices of all shares are published on the ACD's website: www.waystone.com and may also be obtained by calling 0345 601 9610 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 the office of the ACD which is also the Head Office. Copies of these may be obtained upon application and, excepting the Instrument of Incorporation, can be found on the ACD's website, 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.

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