# IFSL Marlborough Special Situations Fund

Interim Report and Unaudited Financial Statements for the six month period ended 20 June 2023





### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

### Authorised Fund Manager (AFM) and Registrar

Investment Fund Services Limited (IFSL) Marlborough House 59 Chorley New Road Bolton BL1 4QP

Investor Support: (0808) 178 9321 (FREEPHONE)

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

### **Directors of IFSL**

Andrew Staley (Non-Executive)
Allan Hamer
Dom Clarke - appointed 30 January 2023
Helen Derbyshire
Helen Redmond
Sally Helston
Guy Sears (Independent Non-Executive)
Sarah Peaston (Independent Non-Executive)

## **Investment Manager**

Marlborough Investment Management Limited PO Box 1852 Lichfield Staffordshire WS13 8XU

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

### **Sub-Investment Manager**

Canaccord Genuity Asset Management Limited 88 Wood Street London EC2V 7QR

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

# **Depositary** (in its capacity as Trustee)

HSBC Bank plc 8 Canada Square London E14 5HQ

Authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority.

### **Auditor**

Ernst & Young LLP Atria One 144 Morrison Street Edinburgh EH3 8EX

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### **AUTHORISED INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT**

for the six month period ended 20 June 2023

#### Performance to 20 June 2023

	Six months	<u>i year</u>	<u>3 years</u>	<u>5 years</u>
IFSL Marlborough Special Situations Fund	(0.95)%	(13.03)%	5.20%	(5.96)%
IA UK All Companies sector	5.00%	7.40%	22.94%	8.34%

External Source of Economic Data: Morningstar (P Accumulation - quoted price to quoted price).

The performance figures above are based on quoted prices and will, therefore, differ from the performance in the Comparative Table.

Capital at risk. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance; the value of your investment and any income from it can go down as well as up. Performance returns are based on the net asset value with distributable income reinvested and take account of all ongoing charges, but not entry charges (if applicable). The past performance of this unit class is calculated in sterling.

### Investment commentary

During the six-month period from 21 December 2022 to 20 June 2023, the price of the Fund's P Accumulation units fell 0.95%. This compared to an increase of 5.00% in the IA UK All Companies sector.

Volatility was once again a major theme throughout the period, with a plethora of mixed economic data points. Global equity markets started the period with a high-risk appetite with stocks rallying, driven principally by improving odds of a soft landing in the US and better prospects in the EU and China. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised their world economic forecast for the first time in a year and given many market participants had reduced their allocation to equities during 2022, the improved outlook and subsequent rally in share and index prices forced some investors back into the market, further compounding the rally in certain sectors and stocks.

Rising inflation and household expenditures, rising interest rates and rising taxes amounted to what has been labelled the 'cost-of-living crisis. This, coupled with a confluence of strike action across multiple sectors throughout the period, contributed to UK consumer confidence hitting record lows. Moreover, Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) readings, a broad measure of economic vitality, deteriorated worldwide, indicating the UK was not the only region under pressure.

The economic data throughout the period continued to suggest that inflation and interest rates were likely to remain higher for longer, particularly in the UK, with inflation hitting a multi-decade high of 10.40% as reported in March. Low unemployment levels and the consumer's propensity to spend on services supported this narrative, however, it is feasible the rapid pace of base rate rises (currently 5.00% in the UK) will result in tightening credit conditions for households and enterprises alike in the coming months, especially as loan terms end and are re-priced at materially higher levels.

Sentiment towards the UK stock market remains muted and policy makers are becoming increasingly vocal regarding potential reforms to the pension system in order to increase domestic ownership of UK assets, along with amendments to the listing regime in order to make the UK a more attractive venue for capital. The Chancellor's recent Mansion House speech outlined a series of measures and reforms, including for defined contribution pension funds to allocate 5% of their funds to unlisted equities by 2030, and we understand that unlisted equities include those traded on the FTSE AIM market. We eagerly await future announcements and consultations but in the interim note that UK Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimates have been revised up by the IMF and various earnings releases have been better than expected, which could lead to an influx of international capital entering UK markets.

As growth orientated investors, it would be remiss of us not to mention the buzzword of the past few months: AI (artificial intelligence). May saw a flurry of news flow regarding the topic from leading players within the technology industry and many companies' (small and large) share prices moved substantially in response. It is too early to determine the winners and losers from AI but, given the diversified nature of the Fund, we believe we have a handful of stocks that could be major beneficiaries over the coming years.

Biggest winners during the period included Inspecs, Marlowe, Creo Medical, Burford Capital, FD Technologies, Various Eateries, Renold, Trifast, Dechra Pharmaceuticals and Bytes Technology. Largest losers during the period included Kin & Carta, IQE, HealthBeacon, NCC Group, Focusrite, Future, Frontier Developments, Kistos, Spirent Communications and Enteq Technologies.

### Winners

Inspecs, the designer and manufacturer of eyewear frames and lenses, rose 151% during the period as the market regained confidence in the company's ability to deliver against expectations and gain market share. Mentioned as falling substantially in the Fund's commentary for the year ended 20 December 2022, Inspecs suffered from several headwinds throughout 2022, including negative foreign exchange effects, coupled with elevated freight, material, and operating costs. The company issued a positive trading update in January 2023, reporting a rebound in European markets and continued growth in other markets as well as nascent opportunities with brands such as Barbour and Superdry. Previously postponed expansion plans for manufacturing facilities in Vietnam are expected to commence in the second half of 2023 and it is purported the company has received interest from its customers to use this additional capacity.

### **AUTHORISED INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT**

for the six month period ended 20 June 2023

### Losers

Kin & Carta, the global digital transformation consultancy, fell 70% during the period following two profit warnings blamed principally on macroeconomic headwinds that impacted client spending and elongated sales cycles. The company has exposure to 'big tech' and large financial institutions in the US and as has been widely reported, these companies have been making redundancies and postponing transformation projects, thus impacting Kin & Carta's financial performance. More positively, the company has reported a growing backlog that should materialise in fiscal year 2024 and is also strengthening its AI capability.

It has been another difficult period with UK assets being indiscriminately shunned by investors, particularly those at the lower end of the market value spectrum. Despite the ongoing macroeconomic turbulence, there are areas of positivity, with select companies continuing to win new contracts and gaining market share. Interestingly, the number of capital raises in the UK has significantly increased in recent weeks, with various companies looking to raise capital from a position of strength and with positive intent, whether it be to acquire competitors or invest in organic growth initiatives. There are, however, inevitably those businesses that are raising money to maintain a going concern. We remain supportive of companies that have favourable medium to long term prospects and aim to take advantage of market inefficiencies.

Canaccord Genuity Asset Management Limited 12 July 2023

	Year 2023	Year 2022	Year 2021	Year 2020
	<u>real 2023</u>	<u>real 2022</u>	<u>real 2021</u>	<u>real 2020</u>
A Accumulation (pence per unit)				
Net accumulation paid 20 February	0.1820	-	-	-
Net accumulation paid 20 August	4.3648	-	-	-
P Accumulation (pence per unit)				
Net accumulation paid 20 February	7.2258	4.1988	3.2360	4.8660
Net accumulation paid 20 August	11.3653	6.0825	4.0853	1.5825

### Portfolio changes

**Distributions** 

Largest purchases	Cost (£)
BT Group	8,697,413
Breedon Group	5,912,136
Harbour Energy	5,644,413
Endeavour Mining	5,164,840
Clarkson	3,789,223
IG Design Group	3,573,113
Deliveroo	3,417,180
Smith (DS)	3,367,967
Moonpig Group	3,045,986
Playtech	3,045,476
Other purchases	75,984,683
Total purchases for the period	121,642,430
<u>Largest sales</u>	Proceeds (£)

12,861,569
11,573,760
11,106,308
8,862,257
7,711,213
7,462,630
7,229,097
7,148,865
6,736,738
5,801,042
135,915,818

#### **AUTHORISED STATUS**

IFSL Marlborough Special Situations Fund (the Fund) is an authorised unit trust scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and is a UCITS scheme operating under the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook (COLL) as issued by the Financial Conduct Authority.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### Investment objective

The investment objective of the Fund is to provide capital growth, that is, to increase the value of your investment, however, there is no certainty this will be achieved.

### Investment policy

At least 80% of the Fund will be invested in the shares of companies listed in the UK, incorporated or domiciled in the UK or with significant business operations in the UK. This will include a range of small, medium and large companies. In any event, at least 60% of the Fund shall be invested in smaller companies, defined as companies with a market capitalisation of less than £2.5bn at the time of purchase.

The aim of the investment team is to identify companies which they believe show good long-term growth potential, or which appear to be under-valued given their future prospects.

The team consider economic and market conditions, but the main focus is on individual company analysis and selection.

Following the same investment philosophy, the Fund may also invest in companies which are listed on overseas stock exchanges, other securities which offer returns linked to the company performance, such as, preference shares, convertible bonds and warrants.

The Fund may, from time to time, hold shares in companies that become unquoted following investment, due to a delisting or other corporate event, for example. The Fund will not make new investment into the shares of companies that are unquoted.

The Fund is actively managed, which means the investment manager decides which investments to buy or sell and when. The Fund invests in a diverse portfolio of investments and is not constrained by any industry or sector.

The Fund may hold cash to enable ready settlement of liabilities (including the redemption of units), for the efficient management of the Fund and in order to meet its objective.

### Assessing performance

The Investment Association (IA), the trade body for UK investment managers, has created a number of 'sectors' as a way of dividing funds into broad groups with similar characteristics.

The Fund's investment policy puts it in the IA UK All Companies sector. You may want to assess the Fund's performance compared to the performance of this sector.

### Rights and terms attaching to each unit class

A unit of each class represents a proportional entitlement to the assets of the Fund. The allocation of income and taxation and the rights of each unit in the event the Fund is wound up are on the same proportional basis.

### Changes in prospectus

There have been no significant changes since the last annual report.

Up to date Key Investor Information Documents, Prospectus and Long Reports and Financial Statements for any fund within the AFM's range, can be requested by the investor at any time.

# **DIRECTORS' 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.

Allan Hamer Director

Investment Fund Services Limited 16 August 2023

Helen Redmond Director

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### **COMPARATIVE TABLE**

A Accumulation units Change in net assets per unit	Period to 20.06.2023	Year to 20.12.2022	Year to 20.12.2021	Year to 20.12.2020
<b>9</b>	pence	pence	pence	pence
Opening net asset value per unit	1,625.84	2,337.84	1,976.27	1,701.78
Return before operating charges*	(9.03)	(681.99)	397.48	299.52
Operating charges	(12.76)	(30.01)	(35.91)	(25.03)
Return after operating charges*	(21.79)	(712.00)	361.57	274.49
Distributions on accumulation units	(4.36)	(0.18)	-	-
Retained distributions on accumulation units	4.36	0.18	-	
Closing net asset value per unit	1,604.05	1,625.84	2,337.84	1,976.27
* after direct transaction costs of:	1.38	2.17	3.05	3.10
Performance				
Return after charges <sup>A</sup>	(1.34)%	(30.46)%	18.30%	16.13%
Other information				
Closing net asset value (£)	33,444,574	207,534,554	345,541,276	320,072,879
Closing number of units	2,085,010	12,764,762	14,780,396	16,195,833
Operating charges	1.54% <sup>B,C</sup>	1.54% <sup>B</sup>	1.54% <sup>B</sup>	1.53%
Direct transaction costs	0.16% <sup>C</sup>	0.11%	0.13%	0.19%
Prices (pence per unit)				
Highest unit price	1,737.97	2,469.98	2,606.72	1,993.98
Lowest unit price	1,582.14	1,535.33	1,928.70	1,095.14
P Accumulation units	Period to	Year to	Year to	Year to
P Accumulation units Change in net assets per unit	20.06.2023	20.12.2022	20.12.2021	20.12.2020
Change in net assets per unit	20.06.2023 pence	20.12.2022 pence	20.12.2021 pence	20.12.2020 pence
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit	<b>20.06.2023</b> <b>pence</b> 1,752.90	<b>20.12.2022</b> <b>pence</b> 2,500.21	<b>20.12.2021</b> <b>pence</b> 2,098.11	<b>20.12.2020</b> <b>pence</b> 1,793.48
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges*	20.06.2023 pence 1,752.90 (9.88)	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79)	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77	20.12.2020 pence 1,793.48 318.17
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges	20.06.2023 pence 1,752.90 (9.88) (7.06)	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52)	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67)	20.12.2020 pence 1,793.48 318.17 (13.54)
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges*	20.06.2023 pence 1,752.90 (9.88) (7.06) (16.94)	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31)	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10	20.12.2020 pence 1,793.48 318.17 (13.54) 304.63
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units	20.06.2023 pence 1,752.90 (9.88) (7.06) (16.94) (11.37)	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31)	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28)	20.12.2020 pence 1,793.48 318.17 (13.54) 304.63 (4.82)
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units	20.06.2023 pence 1,752.90 (9.88) (7.06) (16.94) (11.37) 11.37	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31) 13.31	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28) 8.28	20.12.2020 pence 1,793.48 318.17 (13.54) 304.63 (4.82) 4.82
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units	20.06.2023 pence 1,752.90 (9.88) (7.06) (16.94) (11.37)	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31)	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28)	20.12.2020 pence 1,793.48 318.17 (13.54) 304.63 (4.82)
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units	20.06.2023 pence 1,752.90 (9.88) (7.06) (16.94) (11.37) 11.37	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31) 13.31	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28) 8.28	20.12.2020 pence 1,793.48 318.17 (13.54) 304.63 (4.82) 4.82
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit	20.06.2023 pence 1,752.90 (9.88) (7.06) (16.94) (11.37) 11.37 1,735.96	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31) 13.31 1,752.90	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28) 8.28 2,500.21	20.12.2020 pence 1,793.48 318.17 (13.54) 304.63 (4.82) 4.82 2,098.11
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit  * after direct transaction costs of:	20.06.2023 pence 1,752.90 (9.88) (7.06) (16.94) (11.37) 11.37 1,735.96	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31) 13.31 1,752.90	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28) 8.28 2,500.21	20.12.2020 pence 1,793.48 318.17 (13.54) 304.63 (4.82) 4.82 2,098.11
Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit  * after direct transaction costs of:  Performance Return after charges <sup>A</sup> Other information	20.06.2023 pence 1,752.90 (9.88) (7.06) (16.94) (11.37) 11.37 1,735.96	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31) 13.31 1,752.90	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28) 8.28 2,500.21 3.26	20.12.2020 pence 1,793.48 318.17 (13.54) 304.63 (4.82) 4.82 2,098.11  3.29
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Change in net assets per unit  Opening net asset value per unit Return before operating charges* Operating charges Return after operating charges* Distributions on accumulation units Retained distributions on accumulation units Closing net asset value per unit  * after direct transaction costs of:  Performance Return after charges <sup>A</sup> Other information Closing net asset value (£) Closing number of units	20.06.2023 pence 1,752.90 (9.88) (7.06) (16.94) (11.37) 11.37 1,735.96  1.48  (0.97)%  841,631,101 48,482,110	20.12.2022 pence 2,500.21 (730.79) (16.52) (747.31) (13.31) 13.31 1,752.90 2.33 (29.89)% 791,907,850 45,176,888	20.12.2021 pence 2,098.11 421.77 (19.67) 402.10 (8.28) 8.28 2,500.21 3.26  19.16%  1,315,287,778 52,607,037	20.12.2020 pence 1,793.48 318.17 (13.54) 304.63 (4.82) 4.82 2,098.11  3.29  16.99%  1,071,063,750 51,049,051
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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>A</sup> The return after charges is calculated using the underlying investments bid prices.

Operating charges are the same as the ongoing charges and are the total expenses paid by each unit class in the period. Direct transaction costs are the total charges for the period, included in the purchase and sale of investments in the portfolio of the Fund. These amounts are expressed as a percentage of the average net asset value over the period and the average units in issue for the pence per unit figures.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>B</sup> From 30 April 2021, the Operating Charges (or Ongoing Charges Figure) calculation has been extended to include, where relevant, charges incurred by closed-ended vehicles such as investment trusts.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>C</sup> These figures have been annualised.

# SYNTHETIC RISK AND REWARD INDICATOR (all unit classes)

Lower risk						Higher risk
<del></del>						
Typically lower rew	vards				Typic	cally higher rewards
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

This indicator aims to give you a measure of the price movement of the Fund based on past data. It uses historic returns over the last five years. If five years' data is not available, simulated data based on a representative portfolio are used.

The Fund has been measured as 6 because its investments have experienced high volatility in the past. During the period the synthetic risk and reward indicator has remained unchanged.

# PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

Holding or nominal value		Bid value £	Percentage of total net assets
	AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE (20 December 2022 - 2.70%)	L	/0
50,000	Avon Rubber	440,000	0.05
	Chemring Group	5,171,250	0.59
2,069,500		9,664,565	1.10
	Melrose Industries	6,804,000	0.78
1,350,000	Total Aerospace and Defense	22,079,815	2.52
	Total Aerospace and Defense	22,079,013	2.02
4=0.000	<b>BEVERAGES</b> (20 December 2022 - 0.62%)		
,	Fevertree Drinks	5,773,500	0.66
240,000		2,532,000	0.29
	Total Beverages	8,305,500	0.95
	<b>CHEMICALS</b> (20 December 2022 - 0.66%)		
1,075,000		7,385,250	0.84
	Total Chemicals	7,385,250	0.84
	CLOSED END INVESTMENTS (20 December 2022 - 0.63%)		
5,854,183	Augmentum Fintech	5,690,266	0.65
	Total Closed End Investments	5,690,266	0.65
	CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIALS (20 December 2022 - 3.77%)		
2,400,000	Breedon Group	8,076,000	0.92
1,250,000	Marshalls	3,242,500	0.37
3,411,623	Norcros	6,072,689	0.69
500,000	Renew Holdings	3,565,000	0.41
19,000,000	SigmaRoc	11,020,000	1.26
2,325,581	Stelrad Group	2,837,209	0.32
500,000	Volution Group	1,816,000	0.21
	Total Construction and Materials	36,629,398	4.18
	CONSUMER SERVICES (20 December 2022 - 1.07%)		
100,000	CVS Group	2,130,000	0.24
	Total Consumer Services	2,130,000	0.24
	ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT (20 December 2022	- 2 15%)	
55,000	Judges Scientific	5,225,000	0.60
	Oxford Instruments	4,050,000	0.46
901,487		5,985,874	0.68
489,656		1,353,899	0.15
100,000	Total Electronic and Electrical Equipment	16,614,773	1.89
	· ·		
175 000	FOOD PRODUCERS (20 December 2022 - 2.81%) Cranswick	5,621,000	0.64
,	Hilton Food Group	6,470,000	0.74
	MP Evans Group	10,249,603	1.17
	Premier Foods	2,970,000	0.34
2,200,000	Total Food Producers	25,310,603	2.89
	OFNEDAL INDUSTRIALO (OO D		
11 000 000	GENERAL INDUSTRIALS (20 December 2022 - 0.88%)	7 040 000	0.00
	Coats Group	7,810,000	0.89
250,000	Smith (DS)	771,000	0.09
	Total General Industrials	8,581,000	0.98
	HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS (20 December 2022 - 0.70%)	F 222 25 -	2.2-
400,000	Craneware	5,920,000	0.68
	Total Health Care Providers	5,920,000	0.68
	HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND HOME CONSTRUCTION (20 December	2022 - 0.69%)	
2,105,172	ProCook Group	557,871	0.06
	Total Household Goods and Home Construction	557,871	0.06

# PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

Holding or nominal value		Bid value £	Percentage of total net assets %
	INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING (20 December 2022 - 2.12%)	L	/0
600 000	AB Dynamics	12,000,000	1.37
21,000,000		6,069,000	0.69
	Somero Enterprises	4,275,000	0.49
1,000,000	Total Industrial Engineering	22,344,000	2.55
		22,044,000	2.00
2.250.000	INDUSTRIAL METALS AND MINING (20 December 2022 - 0.67%)	1 067 500	0.04
2,250,000	Yellow Cake	1,867,500	0.21
750,000		3,121,500 4,989,000	0.36 0.57
	Total Industrial Metals and Mining	4,969,000	0.57
1 000 000	INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT SERVICES (20 December 2022 - 12.33%) Alpha Financial Markets Consulting	4,900,000	0.56
	Boku 'Reg S'	9,787,500	1.12
	Diploma	599,200	0.07
2,750,000	·	4,763,000	0.54
	FDM Group (Holdings)	5,796,000	0.66
1,700,000		11,118,000	1.27
	Mind Gym	1,395,794	0.16
1,969,000		4,922,500	0.56
	Robert Walters	7,087,500	0.81
	RWS Holdings	12,354,836	1.41
	Science Group	9,973,970	1.14
	Smart Metering Systems	12,600,000	1.44
1,500,000		5,467,500	0.63
5,750,000	Trifast	4,450,500	0.51
	Total Industrial Support Services	95,216,300	10.88
	INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION (20 December 2022 - 4.05%)		
	Clarkson	6,027,000	0.69
	DX (Group)	28,617,159	3.27
	Mercantile Ports & Logistics	46,981	0.01
1,250,000	· ·	8,062,500	0.92
	Total Industrial Transportation	42,753,640	4.89
	INVESTMENT BANKING AND BROKERAGE SERVICES (20 December 1997)		
	Alpha Group International	21,028,150	2.40
·	Brooks Macdonald Group	5,700,000	0.65
	Burford Capital	4,709,625	0.54
	Hargreaves Lansdown	1,197,600	0.14
687,272		4,989,595	0.57
	Mattioli Woods	3,100,000	0.35
	Molten Ventures Peel Hunt	1,326,000 4,000,000	0.15 0.46
	TP ICAP Group	10,801,000	1.23
7,000,000	Total Investment Banking and Brokerage Services	56,851,970	6.49
	<b>LEISURE GOODS</b> (20 December 2022 - 3.05%)		
1,650,000	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	7,920,000	0.91
	Frontier Developments	3,934,000	0.45
	Games Workshop Group	2,136,000	0.24
	Keywords Studios	1,891,000	0.22
	Team17 Group	6,840,000	0.78
, ,	Total Leisure Goods	22,721,000	2.60
	<b>MEDIA</b> (20 December 2022 - 6.62%)		
5,500,000	Everyman Media Group	3,410,000	0.39
250,000		1,777,500	0.20
	GlobalData	16,875,000	1.93
	LBG Media	7,696,000	0.88
750,000	Next 15 Group	5,227,500	0.60

# PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

Holding or nominal value		Bid value	Percentage of total net assets
	MEDIA ( C )	£	%
9,500,000	MEDIA (continued)	6 602 250	0.76
	Wilmington	6,683,250 1,779,200	0.76
1,100,000	· ·	11,880,000	1.36
1,100,000	Total Media	55,328,450	6.32
	MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES (20 December 2022 - 1.12%)		
2,950,000	Advanced Medical Solutions Group	6,888,250	0.79
	Creo Medical Group	7,985,898	0.91
	Total Medical Equipment and Services	14,874,148	1.70
	OIL, GAS AND COAL (20 December 2022 - 1.59%)		
3,750,000	Diversified Energy Company	3,412,500	0.39
	Energean	4,734,500	0.54
	Enteq Upstream	792,000	0.09
	Gulf Keystone Petroleum	276,000	0.03
	Harbour Energy	6,232,500	0.71
	Kistos Holdings	3,125,000	0.36
2,000,000		800,000	0.09
1,600,000	Serica Energy  Total Cit. Con and Cont.	3,942,400	0.45
	Total Oil, Gas and Coal	23,314,900	2.66
1 000 000	<b>OPEN END AND MISCELLANEOUS INVESTMENT VEHICLES</b> (20 Dec Geiger Counter	cember 2022 - 0.35% 380,000	0.04
1,000,000	Total Open End and Miscellaneous Investment Vehicles	380,000	0.04
	PERSONAL CARE, DRUG AND GROCERY STORES (20 December 20		
50,000	Greggs	1,306,000	0.15
	IG Design Group	9,450,000	1.08
7,000,000	Total Personal Care, Drug and Grocery Stores	10,756,000	1.23
	PERSONAL GOODS (20 December 2022 - 1.33%)		
8 310 082	Inspecs Group	8,891,788	1.02
3,797,911	· ·	2,966,168	0.34
	Watches of Switzerland Group	6,170,250	0.71
,	Total Personal Goods	18,028,206	2.07
	PHARMACEUTICALS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY (20 December 2022 - 2	.03%)	
13,470,000	Agronomics	1,380,675	0.16
	Alliance Pharma	3,696,420	0.42
20,000,000	Benchmark Holdings	7,800,000	0.89
,	Dechra Pharmaceuticals	1,812,000	0.21
	Destiny Pharma	879,280	0.10
135,000		3,207,600	0.37
1,250,000	PureTech Health	2,887,500	0.33
	Total Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology	21,663,475	2.48
	PRECIOUS METALS AND MINING (20 December 2022 - 0.59%)		
	Endeavour Mining	4,985,000	0.57
	Jubilee Metals Group	4,840,000	0.55
10,500,000	Pan African Resources	1,379,700	0.16
	Total Precious Metals and Mining	11,204,700	1.28
	REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT AND SERVICES (20 December 2022 - 2.	•	
2,508,000	Lok'nStore Group	21,368,160	2.44
	Total Real Estate Investment and Services	21,368,160	2.44
	REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS (20 December 2022 - 0.96%)		
	Big Yellow Group	544,500	0.06
700,000	Safestore Holdings	6,191,500	0.71
	Total Real Estate Investment Trusts	6,736,000	0.77

# PORTFOLIO STATEMENT

Holding or nominal value		Bid value £	Percentage of total net assets %
	<b>RETAILERS</b> (20 December 2022 - 1.18%)	L	/0
2 500 000	Moonpig Group	3,535,000	0.40
	WHSmith	8,040,000	0.92
000,000	Total Retailers	11,575,000	1.32
	SOFTWARE AND COMPLITED SERVICES (20 December 2022) 45 750/	`	
7,598,859	SOFTWARE AND COMPUTER SERVICES (20 December 2022 - 15.75% 1Spatial	3,647,452	0.42
	accesso Technology Group	9,800,000	1.12
	Aptitude Software Group	10,170,000	1.16
	Big Technologies	5,874,000	0.67
	Blancco Technology Group	6,784,430	0.78
	Bytes Technology Group	2,110,000	0.24
	Cerillion	12,752,750	1.46
	Deliveroo	3,633,000	0.42
, ,	Eagle Eye Solutions Group	10,177,202	1.16
	FD Technologies	13,986,000	1.60
	GB Group	9,093,000	1.04
21,035,000	·	14,430,010	1.65
	K3 Business Technology Group	3,050,000	0.35
	Kin and Carta	1,801,250	0.33
	NCC Group	9,000,000	1.03
	Trustpilot Group	3,444,750	0.39
4,500,000			13.70
	Total Software and Computer Services	119,753,844	13.70
	TECHNOLOGY HARDWARE AND EQUIPMENT (20 December 2022 - 1.		
	Gooch & Housego	2,325,000	0.27
26,000,000		5,291,000	0.60
	Total Technology Hardware and Equipment	7,616,000	0.87
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT (20 December 2022 - 1.44%)		
5,453,016	Spirent Communications	9,771,805	1.12
	Total Telecommunications Equipment	9,771,805	1.12
	TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS (20 December 2022 -	1.23%)	
425,000	Gamma Communications	5,057,500	0.58
100,000	Telecom Plus	1,560,000	0.18
73,637	Zegona Communications	34,609	-
	Total Telecommunications Service Providers	6,652,109	0.76
	TRAVEL AND LEISURE (20 December 2022 - 6.08%)		
2 000 000	888 Holdings	2,354,000	0.27
300,000	<u> </u>	3,670,500	0.42
600,000		7,566,000	0.87
	Loungers	5,700,000	0.65
1,250,000	· ·	7,506,250	0.86
	PPHE Hotel Group	5,350,000	0.61
	SSP Group	8,988,000	1.03
	The City Pub Group	3,940,889	0.45
	Various Eateries	3,534,246	0.40
	XP Factory	1,905,000	0.22
	Young & Co's Brewery 'A'	5,649,750	0.65
	Young & Co's Brewery 'NV'	1,616,000	0.18
200,000	Total Travel and Leisure	57,780,635	6.61
		51,100,000	0.01
	WASTE AND DISPOSAL SERVICES (20 December 2022 - Nil)		
1,111,111	Franchise Brands	1,955,555	0.22
	Total Waste and Disposal Services	1,955,555	0.22

### **PORTFOLIO STATEMENT**

as at 20 June 2023

Holding or nominal value		Bid value £	Percentage of total net assets %
	OVERSEAS SECURITIES (20 December 2022 - 0.63%)		
7,500	Chord Energy	890,260	0.10
15,000	Franco-Nevada	1,702,201	0.19
696,889	HealthBeacon	656,185	0.08
500,000	Kosmos Energy	2,432,146	0.28
1,500,000	Var Energi	3,036,602	0.35
150,000	Marathon Oil	2,761,132	0.32
125,000	Wheaton Precious Metals	4,352,251	0.50
30,955	CoTec Holdings	8,072	
	Total Overseas Securities	15,838,849	1.82
	UNQUOTED SECURITIES (20 December 2022 - 1.82%)		
2,790,000	AdvancedAdvT <sup>E</sup>	2,232,000	0.26
4,800,000	Genagro <sup>C</sup>	207,015	0.02
3,215,000	Goals Soccer Centres B	-	-
3,250,000	HeiQ <sup>E</sup>	656,500	0.08
	Lamaune Iron <sup>A</sup>	-	-
10,000,000	Moxico Resources <sup>C</sup>	5,010,000	0.57
1,641,000	New Finsaga <sup>A</sup>	-	-
4,694,056	Patisserie Holdings <sup>B</sup>	-	-
	Red Lambda <sup>A</sup>	-	-
	SCA Investments <sup>C</sup>	9,882,616	1.13
47,532	SCA Investments 'M' C	1,755,357	0.20
	Tottenham Hotspur <sup>D</sup>	2,100,000	0.24
	Tricorn Group <sup>F</sup>	-	-
	Tulla Resources <sup>C</sup>	2,275	-
	Verici Dx Lock Up Shares <sup>C</sup>	9,900	-
11	Walter Energy <sup>F</sup>		<u>-</u>
	Total Unquoted Securities	21,855,663	2.50
	Portfolio of investments	820,533,885	93.77
	Net other assets	54,541,790	6.23
	Total net assets	875,075,675	100.00

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>A</sup> These shares are unlisted and are valued at zero, based on the latest information received.

All investments are listed on recognised stock exchanges and are approved securities within the meaning of the FCA rules unless otherwise stated.

# PORTFOLIO TRANSACTIONS

for the six month period ended 20 June 2023

£

Total purchases costs, including transaction charges

121,642,430

Total sales proceeds, net of transaction charges

222,409,297

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>B</sup> These shares are valued at zero, as the company is in administration with no expected return.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>C</sup> These shares are unlisted and are being valued using the latest information received.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>D</sup> These shares are delisted and are being valued using the latest information received.

E These shares are suspended and are valued using the latest information received until a resumption in trading or more information is released.

F These shares are delisted and are valued at zero, based on the latest information received.

# STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

for the six month period ended 20 June 2023

	20 June 2023		20 June 2022	
	£	£	£	£
Income:				
Net capital losses		(13,613,545)		(321,709,587)
Revenue	9,955,580		9,519,338	
Expenses	(4,434,132)		(6,768,082)	
Net revenue before taxation	5,521,448		2,751,256	
Taxation	(106,122)		(108,911)	
Net revenue after taxation		5,415,326		2,642,345
Total return before distributions		(8,198,219)		(319,067,242)
Distributions		(5,415,326)		(2,954,320)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders from investment activities		(13,613,545)		(322,021,562)

# STATEMENT OF CHANGE IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNITHOLDERS

for the six month period ended 20 June 2023

	20 June 2023		20 June 2022	
	£	£	£	£
Opening net assets attributable to unitholders	А	999,442,404		1,660,829,054
Amounts receivable on issue of units Amounts payable on cancellation of units Amounts payable on unit class conversions	1,151,836 (117,312,044) (500,205)	(116,660,413)	9,374,053 (150,520,613) (12,454)	(141,159,014)
Dilution adjustment		306,102		565,725
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders from investment activities		(13,613,545)		(322,021,562)
Retained distribution on accumulation units		5,601,127		2,889,908
Closing net assets attributable to unitholders	_ =	875,075,675	A	1,201,104,111

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>A</sup> These figures are not the same as the comparatives are taken from the preceding interim period and not the last final accounts.

### **BALANCE SHEET**

as at 20 June 2023

	20 June 2023 £	20 December 2022 £	
Assets:			
Fixed Assets:			
Investments	820,533,885	935,656,331	
Current Assets:			
Debtors	3,162,757	1,998,922	
Cash and bank balances	56,811,557	63,164,870	
Total assets	880,508,199	1,000,820,123	
Liabilities:			
Creditors:			
Other creditors	5,432,524	1,377,719	
Total liabilities	5,432,524	1,377,719	
Net assets attributable to unitholders	875,075,675	999,442,404	

### NOTES TO THE INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the six month period ended 20 June 2023

### **Basis for preparation**

The interim financial statements have been prepared in compliance with Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 102 and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for UK Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Management Association (renamed to the Investment Association) in May 2014, and amended in June 2017.

The interim financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the Fund. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest pound.

The interim financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of investments and certain financial instruments at fair value.

## **Accounting policies**

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the annual financial statements for the year ended 20 December 2022 and are described in those annual financial statements.

The investments of the Fund have been valued at their fair value at 12 noon on 20 June 2023.

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Investment Fund Services Limited.

Registered in England and Wales (company registration number 06110770). Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and a member of The Investment Association.