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## **Key risk factors**

**Capital at risk.** The value of investments and the income from them can fall as well as rise and are not guaranteed. Investors may not get back the amount originally invested.

The Company's investments may be subject to liquidity constraints, which means that shares may trade less frequently and in small volumes, for instance in smaller companies. As a result, changes in the value of investments may be more unpredictable. In certain cases, it may not be possible to sell the security at or near the last market price quoted or at a value considered to be fair.

Derivatives may be used substantially for complex investment strategies. These include the creation of short positions where the Investment Manager artificially sells an investment it does not own.

Derivatives can also be used to generate exposure to investments greater than the net asset value of the Company. Investment Managers refer to this practice as obtaining market leverage or gearing. As a result, a small positive or negative movement in stock markets will have a larger impact on the value of these derivatives than owning the investments. The use of derivatives in this manner may have the effect of increasing the overall risk profile of the Company.

Approximately 30% of the Company's net assets may be invested in Contracts for Difference ("CFDs"). Please refer to the glossary for a fuller definition

## blackrock.com/uk/thrg

# **BlackRock Throgmorton Trust plc**

May 2025

The information contained in this release was correct as at 31 May 2025 Information on the Company's up to date net asset values can be found on the London Stock Exchange Website at:

https://www.londonstockexchange.com/exchange/news/market-news/marketnews-home.html

## **Company objective**

To provide shareholders with long term capital growth and an attractive total return through investment primarily in UK smaller companies and mid-capitalisation companies traded on the London Stock Exchange.

# Fund information (as at 31/05/25) Net asset value capital only: Net asset value incl. income:

Share price	578.00p
Discount to cum income NAV	11.4%
Net yield:1	3.1%
Total gross assets: <sup>2</sup>	£505.9m
Net market exposure as a % of net asset value: <sup>3</sup>	105.6%
Ordinary shares in issue:4	77,531,864
2024 ongoing charges (excluding performance fees): <sup>5,6</sup>	0.56%
2024 ongoing charges ratio (including performance fees): <sup>5,6,7</sup>	0.82%

# The figures shown relate to past performance. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future results and should not be the sole factor of consideration when selecting a product or strategy.

 $^1$  Calculated using the Final Dividend declared on 20 February 2025 payable on 11 April 2025, together with the Interim Dividend declared on 24 July 2024 paid on 21 August 2024.

- $^{\rm 2}$  Includes current year revenue and excludes gross exposure through contracts for difference.
- <sup>3</sup> Long exposure less short exposure as a percentage of net asset value.
- <sup>4</sup> Excluding 25,678,000 shares held in treasury.

<sup>5</sup> The Company's ongoing charges are calculated as a percentage of average daily net assets and using the management fee and all other operating expenses, excluding performance fees, finance costs, direct transaction charges, VAT recovered, taxation and certain other non-recurring items for the year ended 30 November 2024.

<sup>6</sup> With effect from 1 August 2017 the base management fee was reduced from 0.70% to 0.35% of gross assets per annum. The Company's ongoing charges are calculated as a percentage of average daily net assets and using the management fee and all other operating expenses, including performance fees, but excluding finance costs, direct transaction charges, VAT recovered, taxation and certain other non-recurring items for the year ended 30 November 2023.

<sup>7</sup> Effective 1st December 2017 the annual performance fee is calculated using performance data on an annualised rolling two-year basis (previously, one year) and the maximum annual performance fee payable is effectively reduced to 0.90% of two year rolling average month end gross assets (from 1% of average annual gross assets over one year). Additionally, the Company now accrues this fee at a rate of 15% of outperformance (previously 10%). The maximum annual total management fees (comprising the base management fee of 0.35% and a potential performance fee of 0.90%) are therefore 1.25% of average month end gross assets on a two-year rolling basis (from 1.70% of average annual gross assets).

# The latest performance data can be found on the BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited website at <u>blackrock.com/uk/thrg</u>.

643.57p

652.57p

#### Annual performance to the last quarter end (as at 31/03/2025)

Sterling	31/03/24 31/03/25 %	31/03/23 31/03/24 %	31/03/22 31/03/23 %	31/03/21 31/03/22 %	31/03/20 31/03/21 %
Net asset value	-6.7	10.2	-17.6	-3.8	76.1
Share price	-7.4	3.4	-21.4	-4.6	75.6
Benchmark <sup>1</sup>	-0.4	3.0	-13.4	-2.1	71.3

#### Cumulative performance (as at 31/05/25)

Sterling	1M%	3M%	1Y%	3Y%	5Y%
Net asset value	7.0	5.5	-4.6	3.9	30.1
Share price	6.8	4.1	-6.7	-2.0	15.3
Benchmark <sup>1</sup>	7.3	6.4	1.1	1.1	38.9

The figures shown relate to past performance. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future results and should not be the sole factor of consideration when selecting a product or strategy. Index performance returns do not reflect any management fees, transaction costs or expenses. Indices are unmanaged and one cannot invest directly in an index.

Country allocations (as at 31/05/25)	% of total assets
United Kingdom	95.0
United States	3.8
Australia	0.8
Canada	0.4
Total	100.0

Allocations are as of date shown and do not necessarily represent current or future portfolio holdings.

A full disclosure of portfolio investments for the Company as at 31 March 2025 has been made available on the Company's website at the link given below:

https://www.blackrock.com/uk/individual/literature/policies/th rogmorton-portfolio-disclosure.pdf

<sup>1</sup>With effect from 15 January 2024 the Numis Smaller Companies plus AIM (excluding Investment Companies) Index changed to the Deutsche Numis Smaller Companies plus AIM (excluding Investment Companies). Source: BlackRock, Datastream as stated.

#### The latest performance data can be found on the BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited website at <u>blackrock.com/uk/thrg</u>.

The above Net Asset Value (NAV) performance statistics are based on an NAV with income included with any income reinvested on the exdividend date. A fuller definition of ongoing charges, which includes the annual management fee, is given in the Glossary. Details of the management and performance fees are given in the fund information table overleaf. The performance of the Company's portfolio, or NAV performance, is not the same as share price performance and shareholders may not realise returns which are the same as NAV performance.

Sector allocations (as at 31/05/25)	% of total assets
Industrials	34.6
Financials	23.4
Consumer Discretionary	9.1
Basic Materials	7.6
Technology	6.7
Consumer Staples	4.5
Real Estate	3.8
Health Care	2.2
Communication Services	1.1
Energy	0.6
Telecommunications	0.3
Net Current Assets	6.1
Total	100.0

# Allocations are as of date shown and do not necessarily represent current or future portfolio holdings.

## Top 10 investments (as at 31/05/25)

Company	% of total gross assets
GPE	3.2
Grafton Group	3.0
Rotork	2.9
Tatton Asset Management	2.9
Bellway	2.8
Breedon	2.8
XPS Pensions Group	2.8
IntegraFin	2.7
lbstock	2.7
Morgan Sindall	2.6

Holdings are as at the date shown and do not necessarily represent current or future portfolio holdings. **Risk:** The specific companies identified and described above do not represent all of the companies purchased or sold, and no assumptions should be made that the companies identified and discussed were or will be profitable.

Market exposure – quarterly	31.08.24 %	30.11.24 %	28.02.25 %	31.05.25 %
Long	111.7	111.9	117.8	108.4
Short	2.7	3.4	4.9	2.8
Gross exposure	114.4	115.3	122.7	111.1
Net exposure	109.0	108.5	112.9	105.6

Source: BlackRock as at 31 May 2025

#### Comments from the portfolio manager:

Please note that the commentary below includes historic information in respect of the performance of portfolio investments, index performance data and the Company's NAV and share performance.

# The figures shown relate to past performance. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future results.

The Company returned 7.0% in May, underperforming its benchmark the Deutsche Numis Smaller Companies +AIM (excluding Investment Companies) Index, which returned 7.3%.

May proved a strong month for most financial assets on the back of better economic data (e.g. US jobs data and CPI), strong company reporting, and of course positive developments on the trade front (US and China slashing their proposed tariffs for 90 days) as Liberation Day chaos has given way to the TACO trade on the belief that tariff impact will be less than initially envisaged. Equity markets responded positively, effectively reversing much of the "Liberation Day" tariff turmoil. Bond markets had a tougher time, with US Treasury yields continuing to widen amidst growing fears over the US fiscal situation alongside a broader global sell-off in long-end bonds. It remains too early to tell what the exact impact of the tariff proposals will be, or where the current US-China 90 day will end. Indeed, is it now simply that tariffs have effectively been bracketed between 10% and 30%? However, as it stands most companies continue to report positively across tech and consumer with little to any impact from the macro and political noise.

The largest positive contributor during the month was Chemring. The shares benefitted from continued outperformance of the Aerospace & Defence sector through the month, driven higher by expectations for the upcoming NATO summit in June. The company has since reported a sharp rise in interim profits with a record order book, reiterating full year guidance. Jet2 continued to rally following strong results at the end of April, signalling an unchanged outlook and announcing a new and substantial share buyback utilising their strong balance sheet. Europe to US passenger data also rebounded to +2% in April after a steep March decline, which helped the shares. Other notable contributors included mobile payments business, Boku and UK domestics Grafton and Great Portland.

The largest detractor during the month was Victorian Plumbing. The company reported solid first half results, but the shares fell significantly on the news that the company is investing in re-launching the MFI homewares brand as a standalone business, as well as downgrades on higher costs in the underlying business. This investment will depress group profits, and while homewares is a much larger addressable market, it is highly competitive with well-established peers. We appreciate Management's longterm vision, but this was a step too far in terms of investment thesis deviation so in line with our process we have exited the position. Against the backdrop of a market up 7% in the month, many other relative detractors were simply shares that failed to keep pace with the strength in the broader market. For example, Tatton Asset Management was the second largest detractor, despite no stock specific news flow, as they remained flat on the month. Similarly, shares in housebuilder Bellway rose a mere 2%, so this was the third biggest detractor to relative performance. Clearly, with no deterioration in the investment case for either of these names we retain our holdings.

We have been surprised by the speed and quantum of the stock market recovery in recent weeks and in hindsight it would have been beneficial to performance to have increased the net during the initial sell-off in March & April. On a more positive note, we are pleased with the trading patterns that many of our longs (and in several cases our shorts) are reporting, which bodes well for longer term returns. Our companies are delivering, and as often is the case it is the times of uncertainty such as these that present the best opportunities for management teams to distinguish themselves and for fundamental analysis to add value. The opportunity set remains rich and compelling, we think we are very much in game, and we look forward to updating you in due course.

The gross and net remain around 111% and 105% respectively reflecting the challenging backdrop facing the market, in particular UK small and mid-caps. However, we continue to believe the valuation opportunity remains compelling and we believe in time, investors patience will be rewarded.

We thank shareholders for your ongoing support.

**Risk:** Reference to the names of each company mentioned in this communication is merely for explaining the investment strategy and should not be construed as investment advice or investment recommendation of those companies.

Any opinions or forecasts represent an assessment of the market environment at a specific time and are not intended to be a forecast of future events or a guarantee of future results. This information should not be relied upon by the reader as research, investment advice or a recommendation.

### Key company details

Fund characteristics:	
Incorporation date	December 1957
Date BlackRock took over management	1 July 2008
Dealing currency	Sterling
Association of Investment Companies sector (AIC)	UK Smaller Companies
Benchmark	Deutsche Numis Smaller Companies plus AIM (excluding Investment Companies) Index*
•	er Companies plus AIM (excluding Investment Companies)
Index changed to Deutsche Numis Smaller Compan	ies plus AIM (excluding Investment Companies).
Index changed to Deutsche Numis Smaller Compan Traded	ies plus AIM (excluding Investment Companies). London Stock Exchange
<b>.</b>	
Traded	

Annual Management fee	forms part of the ongoing charges as disclosed in the Fund
	Information section)
	15% of the outperformance of the net asset value total return against
Performance fee	the benchmark index measured on an annualised two year rolling

Performance fee the benchmark index, measured on an annualised two year rolling average basis. The performance fee is effectively capped at 0.9%.

Financial calendar:		Ordinary share codes:	
Year end	30 November	ISIN	GB0008910555
Results announced	July (half yearly) February (final)	Sedol	0891055
Annual General	March	Bloomberg	THRG:LN
Meeting		Reuters	THRG.L
Dividends paid	August (interim) April (final)	Ticker	THRG/LON

#### **NMPI Status**

The Company currently conducts its affairs so that its securities can be recommended by IFAs (Independent Financial Adviser) to ordinary retail investors in accordance with the FCA's (Financial Conduct Authority) rules in relation to Non-Mainstream Pooled Investments (NMPI) and intends to continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The securities are excluded from the FCA's restrictions which apply to non-mainstream pooled investment because they are shares in an investment trust.

## Want to know more?

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## **Glossary of Terms**

#### Alternative Investment Market (AIM)

AIM is the London Stock Exchange's international market for smaller growing companies. The AIM market has no restrictions on market capitalisation, and financial reporting is more flexible than for companies listed on the main market of the London Stock Exchange.

#### **CFD (Contracts for Difference)**

Under a CFD contract the seller undertakes to pay to the buyer the difference between the current value of an asset and its value at a specified end date; this may be a positive or negative amount dependant on how the price has moved. A CFD contract may be used to profit from the price of the underlying asset falling as well as rising; if the buyer enters into a contract where the transaction will generate a profit if the price of the underlying holding falls, this is called a short position. A CFD contract also enables the Company to take advantage of price movements by paying only a small margin and without the cost outlay of purchasing the underlying stock. CFD contracts are not without risks. They may generate losses as well as profits if the price of the underlying asset moves in an unfavourable direction. CFDs also involve counterparty risk - the risk the CFD provider or another counterparty to a trade fails to fulfil their obligations - and liquidity risk, which means market conditions/the mechanics of trading could alter in such a way that trades cannot be made.

#### **Discount/Premium**

Investment trust shares frequently trade at a discount or premium to the NAV. This occurs when the share price is less than (a discount) or more than (a premium) the NAV. The discount or premium is the difference between the share price (based on mid-market share prices) and the NAV, expressed as a percentage of the NAV. Discounts and premiums are mainly the consequence of supply and demand for the shares on the stock market.

#### Gearing

Investment companies can borrow to purchase additional investments. This is called 'gearing'. It allows investment companies to take advantage of a long-term view on a sector or to take advantage of a favorable situation or a particularly attractive stock without having to sell existing investments. Gearing works by magnifying the company's performance. If a company 'gears up' and then markets rise and the returns on the investments outstrip the costs of borrowing, the overall returns to investors will be even greater. But if markets fall and the performance of the assets in the portfolio is poor, then losses suffered by the investor will also be magnified.

#### Long and short positions

Holding a long position in a security means that the holder owns the security or has gained exposure to the security via a CFD contract in the expectation that the stock will rise in value in the future.

A short position generally refers to an arrangement to sell



#### Market exposure

Gross exposure is calculated by adding the 'long' and 'short' positions together. For example, if the Company has 120% 'long' exposure through a combination of securities and 'long' CFDs and 10% held in 'short' CFDs it has a gross exposure of 130%. Net exposure refers to the exposure of the Company when the short positions are deducted from total long exposure. For example, if the Company has 120% 'long' exposure through securities and CFDs and 10% 'short' exposure through CFD positions the net exposure is 110%; this measurement provides a guide to the net directional market exposure and takes into account the fact that long and short positions can often offset one another when the market moves in a particular direction

#### NAV (Net Asset Value)

A company's undiluted NAV is its available shareholders' funds divided by the number of shares in issue (excluding treasury shares), before making any adjustment for any potentially dilutive securities which the Company may have in issue, such as subscription shares, convertible bonds or treasury shares. A diluted NAV is calculated on the assumption that holders of any convertibles have converted, subscription shares have been exercised and treasury shares are re-issued at the mid-market price, to the extent that the NAV per share is higher than the price of each of these shares or securities and that they are 'in the money'. The aim is to ensure that shareholders have a full understanding of the potential impact on the Company's NAV if these instruments had been exercised on a particular date.

#### Net yield

The net yield is calculated using total dividends declared in the last 12 months (as at date of this factsheet) as a percentage of month end share price.

#### **Ongoing charges ratio**

Ongoing charges (%) =

Annualised ongoing charges Average undiluted net asset value in the period

Ongoing charges are those expenses of a type which are likely to recur in the foreseeable future, whether charged to capital or revenue, and which relate to the operation of the investment company as a collective fund, excluding the costs of acquisition/disposal of investments, financing charges and gains/losses arising on investments. Ongoing charges are based on costs incurred in the year as being the best estimate of future costs and include the annual management fee.

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## **Glossary of Terms (continued)**

### Gross and net exposure

Market exposure gained through a CFD (Contract for Differences) contract refers to the gross market value of the underlying securities to which the investor is exposed through the CFD contract. Gross exposure refers to the total exposure the investor has through both long and short positions added together. For example, an investor who has 110% long market exposure through CFDs and 20% short market exposure through CFDs has gross market exposure of 130%.

Net exposure refers to the exposure the investor has through long positions less any short positions. For example, an investor who has 110% long market exposure through CFDs and 20% short market exposure through CFDs has net market exposure of 90%; this method of measurement is looking at the net directional market exposure and takes into account the fact that long and short positions theoretically offset one another when the market moves in a particular direction.

## Price to Earnings Ratio (PE) and Book Value

Price to Earnings Ratio is a way to value a company that measures its current share price relative to its EPS (earnings per share). PE is generally used as a measure to assess if a company's stock is overvalued or undervalued. The book value of a company is the difference between a company's total assets and total liabilities, for example, the amount of money that would be paid out to shareholders if a company was liquidated and all liabilities paid off.

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#### **Risk Warnings**

**Capital at risk** The value of investments and the income from them can fall as well as rise and are not guaranteed. Investors may not get back the amount originally invested.

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of current or future results and should not be the sole factor of consideration when selecting a product or strategy.

Changes in the rates of exchange between currencies may cause the value of investments to diminish or increase. Fluctuation may be particularly marked in the case of a higher volatility fund and the value of an investment may fall suddenly and substantially. Levels and basis of taxation may change from time to time.

#### **Trust Specific risks**

**Liquidity risk** The Company's investments may have low liquidity which often causes the value of these investments to be less predictable. In extreme cases, the Company may not be able to realise the investment at the latest market price or at a price considered fair.

**Complex derivative strategies.** Derivatives can also be used to generate exposure to investments greater than the net asset value of the investment trust. Investment Managers refer to this practice as obtaining market leverage or gearing. As a result, a small positive or negative movement in stock markets will have a larger impact on the value of these derivatives than owning the physical investments. The use of derivatives in this manner may have the effect of increasing the overall risk profile of the Company.

**Financial markets, counterparties and service providers.** The insolvency of any institutions providing services such as safekeeping of assets or acting as counterparty to derivatives or other instruments, may expose the Company to financial loss.

#### Counterparty Risk

The insolvency of any institutions providing services such as safekeeping of assets or acting as counterparty to derivatives or other instruments, may expose the Fund to financial loss.

**Gearing risk** Investment strategies, such as borrowing, used by the Company can result in even larger losses suffered when the value of the underlying investments fall.

#### Investors should refer to the offering documentation for the funds full list of risks.

#### **Important Information**

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Net Asset Value (NAV) performance is not the same as share price performance, and shareholders may realise returns that are lower or higher than NAV performance.

BlackRock Throgmorton Trust plc currently conducts its affairs so that their securities can be recommended by IFAs to ordinary retail investors in accordance with the Financial Conduct Authority's rules in relation to nonmainstream investment products and intend to continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The securities are excluded from the Financial Conduct Authority's restrictions which apply to non-mainstream investment products because they are securities issued by investment trusts. Investors should understand all characteristics of the funds objective before investing. For information on investor rights and how to raise complaints please go to <a href="https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/compliance/investor-right">https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/compliance/investor-right</a> available in in local language in registered jurisdictions.

BlackRock has not considered the suitability of this investment against your individual needs and risk tolerance. To ensure you understand whether our product is suitable, please read the fund specific risks in the Key Investor Document (KID) which gives more information about the risk profile of the investment. The KID and other documentation are available on the relevant product pages at <a href="http://www.blackrock.com/uk/its">www.blackrock.com/uk/its</a>. We recommend you seek independent professional advice prior to investing.

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