ALL DATA AS OF 30 APRIL 2024

MONTHLY REPORT | FACTSHEET

# **Fund Objective & Policy**

To deliver capital and income growth and provide a total return in excess of the MSCI North American Index (GBP) by investing at least 80% of its assets directly in the shares of North American companies i.e. companies that are listed, traded, incorporated or domiciled in the United States of America, Canada and Mexico.

The MSCI North American Index (GBP) has been selected as the fund's target benchmark as it represents the broad scope of North American quoted companies that the fund will seek to invest in. The fund is not constrained by the target benchmark and can take positions in individual sectors, countries and geographic areas that differ significantly from the Index with the aim of achieving a return in excess of the benchmark.

There is no guarantee that a positive return will be delivered.

## Total Return Performance to 30th April 2024 (%) £

					Ann	ıalised	
	1m	3m	YTD	1yr	3yr	Since Inception	
WS LT North American Equity Fund (Acc)	-2.9	-0.2	+3.1	+7.6	+4.8	+11.2	
MSCI North American Index	-3.3	+5.8	+7.4	+22.5	+10.4	+17.0	
Relative Return	+0.4	-6.0	-4.3	-14.9	-5.6	-5.8	

**Source:** Morningstar Direct. Fund performance is based on Acc Class shares. Total return is provided net of fees with dividends reinvested. For periods greater than one year, returns are shown annualised.

Performance data is not available for a full 5 years. Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

## **Fund Information**

Type of Scheme	Non UCITS Retail
Launch Date	22 April 2020
Classes	Accumulation (Acc) / Income (Inc)
Base Currency	GBP (£)
Benchmark	MSCI North American Index (GBP)
Valuation Point	10.30pm each UK business day
Dealing	Requests must be received by 5.30pm on the dealing day
Year End	31 March
Dividend XD Dates	31 March, 30 September
Pay Dates	31 May, 30 November

Fund Assets

£37.1m

**Share Price** 

Acc 153.10p
Inc 97.67p

**Source:** Lindsell Train Limited and Link Fund Administrators Limited.

#### **Fund Profile**

The portfolio is concentrated, with the number of stocks ranging between 20 to 30.

#### **Portfolio Manager**

James Bullock

# **Investment Manager & Distributor**

Lindsell Train Ltd, 66 Buckingham Gate, London, SW1E 6AU

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7808 1210 info@lindselltrain.com

Source: Lindsell Train Limited and Link Fund Administrators Limited.

## **Top 10 Holdings (% NAV)**

FICO	7.24
Alphabet	5.91
American Express	5.85
Walt Disney	5.48
S&P Global	5.28
Intuit	5.12
Equifax	4.88
Oracle	4.70
Visa	4.46
PepsiCo	4.09

## **GICS Sector Allocation (% NAV)**



#### **Share Class Information**

	Minimum Investment	Management Fees	Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF)*	ISIN	Sedol
Acc	£500,000	0.60% p.a.	0.84% p.a.	GB00BJVLMG41	BJVLMG4
Inc	£500,000	0.60% p.a.	0.84% p.a.	GB00BLPK7J94	BLPK7J9

<sup>\*</sup> The OCF is a measure of the Fund's total operating expenses over 12 months, including management fee, as a percentage of the Fund's net assets averaged over the same period. The OCF is based on expenses and average assets for the 12 months to 30th September 2023. It is calculated by the Fund Administrator and published in the KIID, dated 7th February 2024. It is an indication of the likely level of costs and will fluctuate as the Fund's expenses and average net assets change. The OCF excludes any portfolio transaction costs. The OCF is capped at 0.90% until further notice. The ongoing charges are taken equally from the income and capital of the fund.

## **Depositary**

The Northern Trust Investor Services Limited

#### Custodian

The Northern Trust Company

# Fund Administrator, Dealing & Registration

Link Fund Administrators Limited

Tel: +44 (0) 11 3224 6000

Email: investorservices@linkgroup.co.uk

Authorised Corporate Director (ACD)/Authorised Fund Manager Waystone Management (UK) Limited Please refer to Lindsell Train's Glossary of Investment terms here.

#### **Investment Team Commentary**

Relative returns for the Fund were better this month, outpacing the benchmark by 0.4% in GBP terms, though both were in negative absolute territory, with the Fund falling 2.9%. Leading us down was Equifax which fell a sharp 17.7% in USD terms as Q1 earnings were overshadowed by the feared persistence of higher interest rates. Elsewhere Kenvue was also weak (-12.3%), whilst TKO (+9.6%) and Alphabet (+7.9%) provided welcome support.

Credit bureau Equifax (going strong since 1899) commands a heritage-rich set of proprietary data-pools covering 800 million consumers and 90 million businesses. One of the oligopolistic 'big three' (with TransUnion and Experian), Equifax sits at the heart of the consumer credit granting ecosystem, partnering (and sometimes competing) with fellow portfolio holding FICO (another disappointing share this month, down 9.3%). Built over the decades from unique, contributory data sets, the information held by these companies has proven indispensable in credit decisions, granting them deep and lasting moats. Distinguishing Equifax further is its Workforce Solutions (EWS) division, acquired in 2007 and now the company's biggest (at nearly half of sales) and most profitable unit. Over the quarter, EWS delivered revenue growth of just 1% vs. apparently faster industry trends, perhaps prompting the negative market reaction. Any loss of share is worth taking seriously, but we're wary of extrapolating structural shifts from a volatile quarter. EWS holds around 300 million employment and income records (required for hiring decisions, mortgage approvals, and many other use cases), painstakingly built with support from industry participants over five decades, and like the credit data referenced above would be impossible to fully replicate. Management is already looking ahead to faster growth as the wider environment for consumer credit and employment brightens. To provide a longer-term perspective, over the past 10 years, EWS's revenues have comfortably quadrupled.

Visa's performance this month, down 3.8% doesn't particularly stand out; however, with crypto (one of the purported disruptors of traditional credit cards) back in the news, a brief comparison may be warranted. For anyone in need of a recap, I recommend Zeke Faux's Number Go Up, for a tour through the pyramid of pyramid schemes that characterised much of the recent crypto mania. Reflecting on an 'asset' class boasting bouts of 40-fold appreciation, and in some cases daily interest rates of 8%, it's easy to see how some feared missing out. But chasing the hype into a bubble can damage long-term results both relative and absolute. Better in our view to focus on the steady underlying compounding of high-quality companies with deep moats, and the patience to build value over time, regardless of what's making headlines elsewhere. Visa embodies this 'quality'. In the 15 years since its IPO, net earnings have grown at 15% p.a., backed by an operating margin that never once fell below 50%, creating hundreds of billions of dollars of lasting value for long-term holders. All this is owed, not to speculation, but (as for Equifax) to brands, data and networks that have taken decades to scale, providing time tested utility that underpins a large chunk of our modern financial infrastructure. Concluding his book, Faux observes that "Traveling around the world investigating crypto had given me a new appreciation for my Visa card. It worked instantly, with just a tap, charged no fees, and never asked me to memorize long strings of numbers, or to bury codes in my backyard. It even gave me airmiles."

## James Bullock, 16th May 2024

The top three absolute contributors to the Fund's performance in April were Alphabet, TKO and American Express, and the top three absolute detractors were Equifax, FICO and Walt Disney.

Source: Lindsell Train, Morningstar & Bloomberg. All data as of 30th April 2024.

Note: All stock returns are total returns in local currency unless otherwise specified.

#### **Important Information**

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Past performance is not a guide or guarantee to future performance. Investments carry a degree of risk and the value of investments and any income from them may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount you originally invested. Investments may be affected by market or currency fluctuations. All references to benchmarks are for information purposes only. To the extent that the portfolio invests a relatively high percentage of its assets in securities of a limited number of companies, and also invests in securities with a particular industry, sector or geographical focus, the portfolio may be more susceptible than a more diversified portfolio to large swings (both up and down) in its value. Furthermore, the concentrated nature of the portfolio can also lead to relatively significant holdings in individual securities which in turn can have an adverse effect on the ability to sell these securities when the Investment Manager deems it appropriate and on the price of these securities achieved by the Investment Manager at the time of sale.

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