# LINDSELL TRAIN UK Equity Fund

#### ALL DATA AS OF 31 MARCH 2024

### QUARTERLY REPORT | FACTSHEET

#### **Fund Objective & Policy**

To deliver capital and income growth and provide a total return in excess of that of the FTSE All-Share TR Index by investing at least 70% of its assets in the shares of companies incorporated or domiciled in the UK. Up to 10% of assets may be invested in worldwide companies which are listed on an exchange in the UK.

The FTSE All-Share TR Index has been selected as it represents broad exposure to companies listed on the London Stock Exchange. The fund is not constrained by the target benchmark and will take positions in individual stocks 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.

#### Calendar Year Total Return Performance (%) £

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
WS LT UK Equity Fund (Acc)	+22.8	-2.5	+12.7	-6.1	+4.6
FTSE-All Share TR Index	+19.2	-9.8	+18.3	+0.3	+7.9
Relative Return	+3.6	+7.3	-5.6	-6.4	-3.3

#### Total Return Performance to 31st March 2024 (%) £

					Annualised			
	1m	3m	YTD	1yr	3yr	5yr	10 yr	Since Launch
WS LT UK Equity Fund (Acc)	+1.1	+1.2	+1.2	+0.2	+4.1	+4.1	+7.8	+9.8
FTSE-All Share TR Index	+4.8	+3.6	+3.6	+8.4	+8.0	+5.4	+5.8	+5.8
Relative Return	-3.7	-2.4	-2.4	-8.2	-3.9	-1.3	+2.0	+4.0

**Source:** Morningstar Direct & FTSE Russell (FTSE) © 2024. "FTSE Russell" and "FTSE" are trademarks of the London Stock Exchange Group companies and are used by FTSE Russell under licence. Fund performance is based on Acc shares. Total return is provided net of fees. For periods greater than one, returns are shown annualised.

Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

#### **Fund Information**

Type of Scheme	Non UCITS Retail
Launch Date	10 July 2006
Classes	Accumulation / Income / D Accumulation / D Income
Base Currency	GBP (£)
Benchmark	FTSE All-Share TR Index
Dealing & Valuation	10am each UK Business Day
Year End	31 May
Dividend XD Dates	30 November, 31 May
Pay Dates	31 January, 30 September

#### **Fund Assets**

£3,757m Share Price

Acc	523.94p
Inc	346.06p
D Acc	215.63p
D Inc	175.60p

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

#### **Fund Profile**

The portfolio is concentrated, with the number of stocks unlikely to exceed 35.

#### **Portfolio Manager**

Nick Train

# Historic Gross Yield (Income Class)

Gross Yield	2.1%
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Source: Morningstar Direct.

The Historic Yield reflects distributions declared over the past twelve months as a percentage of the unit price, as at the date of this report. Investors may be subject to tax on their distributions, which will reduce the yield. 50% of the Fund's expenses are charged to capital, which has the effect of increasing the distributions but constraining the Fund's capital performance to an equivalent extent. The yield is not guaranteed or representative of future yields.

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

Diageo	9.88
RELX	9.87
Experian	9.83
Sage	9.79
London Stock Exchange Group	9.75
Unilever	9.34
Mondelez	7.22
Burberry	5.88
Heineken	5.37
Schroders	4.93

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



# **Fund Attribution - Q1 2024**

Top Contributors %		Top Detractors %	
RELX	0.97	Burberry	-0.89
Sage	0.87	Manchester United	-0.82
Experian	0.80	Remy Cointreau	-0.67
Unilever	0.47	Schroders	-0.48
Fever-Tree	0.39	Heineken	-0.27

Source: Morningstar Direct. Attribution calculated on an absolute basis.

# **Share Class Information**

	Minimum Investment	Management Fees	Ongoing Charges Figure (OCF)*	ISIN	Sedol
Acc	£500,000	0.60% p.a.	0.65% p.a.	GB00B18B9X76	B18B9X7
Inc	£500,000	0.60% p.a.	0.65% p.a.	GB00B18B9V52	B18B9V5
D Acc	£200m	0.45% p.a.	0.50% p.a.	GB00BJFLM156	BJFLM15
D Inc	£200m	0.45% p.a.	0.50% p.a.	GB00BJFLM263	BJFLM26

<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 31st May 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.

Please refer to Lindsell Train's Glossary of Investment terms here.

#### **Investment Team Commentary**

I analyse the first quarter of 2024 from two perspectives: What Didn't Work and What Did. In the process I include some comments about important individual holdings. Finally, an update on portfolio activity.

What Didn't Work for the strategy in the first quarter was Luxury, particularly Luxury exposed to the Chinese consumer. Our worst performers were Burberry and Remy Cointreau, both down well over 10%, both with important franchises in Asia and Greater China. It is frustrating to note that the two are now trading at below half the peak share prices they set in 2023 (Burberry) and 2022 (Remy). And that what has undermined them has been justified concerns about weakening Chinese demand for western luxury products. We must hope these big share price falls have created future opportunity. We know both companies continue to invest behind their brands in the region and that one day growth and consumer confidence in Asia will recover. Another luxury-related holding, Diageo, with its premium spirits portfolio, marginally underperformed during the quarter, with a gain of 3.5%. Diageo was able to reassure investors that its problems in Latin America, which hit its share price in 2023, are easing and many, including us, now hope for an improvement in its sales performance elsewhere.

Also what didn't work were our two holdings in UK fund management companies, with the 9% drop in Schroders' share price a notable detractor (Rathbones, a smaller holding, is the other). We understand the reasons the industry is out of favour, but believe the companies we hold have differentiated and winning strategies and, as a result, their share prices have become undervalued. For instance, Schroders has a clearly-articulated and patiently-executed strategy to shift its business mix to higher growth and higher margin segments, such as Private Wealth and Private Equity and the strategy is clearly working. After recent results, management was keen to point out the value that has been created within Schroders, through its investment in new business lines that have, to date, been cost centres, rather than profit generators. For instance, Schroders' private wealth joint venture (JV) with Lloyds Bank has now reached c.£14bn of AUM, but last year contributed only £2m to group profits. Management now predicts the JV could deliver £40m worth of profits p.a. in the coming years. You pay 11x earnings for Schroders today, a business with 30% EBITDA margins and valued at c.£6bn, with £750bn AUM, c.£600m of surplus capital and a dividend yield of just shy of 6%. If the company can deliver even a smidgen of secular growth then that rating and share price could change meaningfully for the better.

What Did Work for the Fund during the first quarter was the investment we have in world-class, UK-listed Data and Software companies. Notably, RELX was up 10% and Experian and Sage 8% and 9%, respectively. Our other big holding in this area, LSEG was up 2% in the quarter, thereby underperforming the index, but creeping back toward the share price peak it hit in 2021, now c.4% adrift. We hope that further business progress for LSEG and a likely final

placing of the Refinitiv vendors' stake will clear the way for new share price highs in due course. A welcome winner was Fever-Tree, which gained 14% over the quarter, after reporting encouraging growth at its final results, accompanied by even more encouraging forecasts about the global potential that remains for its unique brand. Ostensibly, Fever-Tree shares look "expensive", but they will look a bargain if the company can fulfill its potential. Another global brand owner which outperformed was Unilever, up 6%. Here, the trio of new Chair, CEO and CFO has begun to make its mark on the business. By announcing the sale or demerger of Unilever's ice-cream division, the global market leader in a growing category, these senior executives have demonstrated their ambition to highlight and realise the growth and value intrinsic in the group's portfolio.

In terms of what we did over the guarter, we continued to add to our newest holding, Rightmove (RMV). The position now stands at 3.6% of NAV. We have been able to build this position easily, because there are ready sellers at current prices. Those sellers are concerned that UK interest rates staying higher for longer will continue to put pressure on the UK housing market and, in addition, that new competition may challenge Rightmove's market share and profitability. As to the former worry, we note that 2023 saw the lowest number of housing transactions in the UK, 1 million, in a decade. Nonetheless, revenues for 2023 were up 10%, as the company develops new products and services which help its customers close more deals, more efficiently in a difficult market. Regarding the latter, I will simply quote the author of the Telegraph's Questor column, recently recommending a purchase of Rightmove shares: "Indeed it would not be an exaggeration to state that Estate Agents in the UK who do not use the company's services are likely to find it very difficult to successfully operate."

A smart fund investor asked me recently — which of your holdings really has the potential to double or treble profits over the next decade or more and, as a result, become a much bigger market capitalized company and higher share price? My answer was that we believe in all our companies — you have to to be a true long-term investor. But that amongst the large-cap holdings in the Fund, it is readily conceivable that RELX and Sage have transformative profit potential ahead. And of our mid and smaller capped holdings, Fever-Tree, Hargreaves Lansdown and Rightmove have clear roadmaps to being much bigger businesses, if, of course, they can execute on the opportunities.

#### Nick Train, 6th April 2024

Source: Lindsell Train, Morningstar & Bloomberg. All data as of 31st March 2024.

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

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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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