

### Fund factsheet

31/12/2024

### Structure

Open Ended Investment Company (OEIC)

### Regulatory status

UCITS

### Fund launch date

29/03/2019

### Benchmark

MSCI Europe ex UK (comparator)

### Fund size (GBP)

£726m

### Number of holdings

46

### Dealing frequency

Daily

### IA sector

IA Europe ex UK

### UK UCITS ManCo.

Waystone Management (UK) Limited

### Yield (projected 2025<sup>1</sup>)

4.87%

### Yield (historic - 2024<sup>1</sup>)

I Acc 5.4778p / 3.57%

I Inc 4.6364p / 3.70%

R Acc 5.1016p / 3.36%

R Inc 3.7312p / 3.48%

### Initial charge

N/A

### Performance fees

N/A

### Ex-dividend date

2nd January 2025



## Fund managers



Rob Burnett



George Boyd-Bowman

## Fund aim and objectives

The objective of the fund is to provide long term (in excess of five years) capital growth. The fund will invest at least 80% of its assets directly in the shares of companies listed and domiciled in Europe (excluding the UK). The fund will have a concentrated portfolio of approximately 40-50 holdings, selected at the manager's discretion. The investment manager seeks to invest in undervalued companies with positive operational momentum.

## Fund commentary

Trump's victory has driven investors to increase overweights to US equities, sucking capital from the rest of the world, including Europe. The currency market may be a useful indicator to judge when this asset allocation shift is coming to a close. Our sense is that most investors who want to increase allocations to the US have already done so. This sets up an interesting 2025 for stock markets. There are high expectations, high valuations and high allocations to the US, but comparatively cautious positioning, valuations and allocations to Europe.

Whilst many investors see Europe as in a bind, given Trump and China, we see some reasons for optimism. We believe it is likely Friedrich Merz will become Chancellor of Germany in February, and he is committed to a more pro-growth agenda. He is also likely to be more robust in defending German corporates from EU regulations and promoting Germany's military capabilities. The German military renaissance, coupled with rising Polish military investment and Finnish and Swedish Nato membership, ought to provide a powerful counterweight to Russia, over time.

Europe is also clearly exposed to the Chinese economy, and we see some reasons for optimism in 2025, despite the pessimistic consensus. Tariffs are coming but policies are in place that may support Chinese consumption next year.

We continue to see a world with relatively high bond yields and therefore regard investment in value equities as the best approach to outperform in a market associated with rising competition for capital. Today we find opportunities across industries, both cyclical and defensive. The WS Lightman European Fund has an estimated dividend yield of 4.9% in 2025 and 5.2% in 2026, with a median PE ratio of 11.8 in 2025 and 10.6 in 2026.

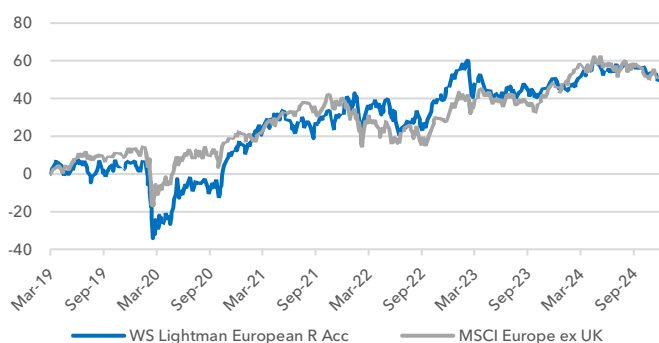
Sector breakdown		Top 10 countries		Top 10 holdings	
Financials	17.95%	France	18.71%	Roche	4.99%
Consumer Staples	15.00%	Germany	15.49%	Danone	4.05%
Communication Services	14.41%	Switzerland	13.50%	Orange	3.63%
Health Care	11.74%	Netherlands	11.69%	DNB	3.61%
Consumer Discretionary	10.82%	Norway	8.46%	Tryg	3.45%
Energy	9.68%	Denmark	6.42%	BMW	3.41%
Materials	9.05%	United States	6.25%	Koninklijke	3.27%
Industrials	7.69%	Sweden	4.69%	Deutsche Boerse	3.16%
Cash	3.65%	Australia	3.63%	Carrefour	3.07%
Utilities	0.00%	Portugal	3.31%	Danske Bank	2.98%

### Fund share classes

Share class	OCF (capped)	SEDOL	ISIN	Bloomberg	Min. initial investment	Min. subsequent investment	Regular saving
Institutional (Acc)	0.6%	BGPFJM6	GB00BGPFJM62	LFLMEIA LN	£100m	£1,000	N/A
Institutional (Inc)	0.6%	BJCWFY5	GB00BJCWFY55	LFLMEIE LN	£100m	£1,000	N/A
Retail (Acc)	0.8%	BGPFJN7	GB00BGPFJN79	LFLMERA LN	£1,000	£1,000	£50
Retail (Inc)	0.8%	BJCWFZ6	GB00BJCWFZ62	LFLMERE LN	£1,000	£1,000	£50

### Performance

Since launch (%)



	Cumulative (%)	1m	3m	6m	1yr	3yr	Launch
R-Acc	-1.55	-4.14	-2.13	0.25	14.79	51.15	
I-Acc	-1.53	-4.09	-2.03	0.45	15.48	52.92	
Benchmark	-0.90	-4.24	-4.17	1.94	8.13	50.79	
Calendar year (%)	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019*	
R-Acc	0.25	3.17	11.00	16.97	6.22	5.98	
I-Acc	0.45	3.37	11.21	17.20	6.43	6.16	
Benchmark	1.94	14.83	-7.62	16.73	7.49	11.15	

Past performance is not an indicator of future performance. Tax treatment depends on the individuals' circumstances and may be subject to change in the future. All data as at 31/12/24 in GBP; fund prices from Northern Trust, benchmark from MSCI. For periods covering part of a calendar year, performance has not been annualised: \*2019 performance is from fund launch on 29/03/2019 to year end.<sup>2</sup>

### What are the risks specific to this fund?

- The value of investments and the income derived from them may fall as well as rise and shareholders may not recoup the original amount they invest in the Fund.
- Funds investing in overseas securities are exposed to currency risk. Exchange rate movements may cause the GBP value of investments to increase or decrease.
- The Fund may suffer a reduction in value due to dealing costs incurred when buying and selling investments and management fee charges applied to the fund. Net yields may be lower than gross yields.

### Contacts

The Key Investor Information Document (KIID) and prospectus are available in English from:

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London, W2 6LG

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<sup>1</sup> Note: 2024 yields are estimated net yields based on the period Jan - Dec 2024. Net yield is after expenses and taxes. Yield % is calculated using ex-dividend unit price as on 02/01/2025. 2025/26 gross yields are approximate and calculated based on actual stock weightings and consensus dividend yields for 2025/26 as available on Bloomberg.

<sup>2</sup> Performance quoted does not consider applicable taxes on the investor. Performance calculated using GBP denominated unit prices or index values as at beginning and end of periods. Fund performance is net of fees with net income reinvested. Benchmark is MSCI Europe ex UK net return GBP index.