# VT TEVIOT FUNDS ICVC (Sub-fund VT Teviot UK Smaller Companies Fund)

Interim Report and Financial Statements (unaudited)
For the six months to 30 June 2023

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# Type of Company

VT Teviot Funds ICVC (the 'Company') is an investment company (company number IC001094) with variable capital incorporated in England and Wales under the Open Ended Investment Company Regulations 2001 (SI2001/1228).

The Company was incorporated and authorised by the Financial Conduct Authority on 31 July 2017.

The Company is a UCITS scheme and is an umbrella company (as defined in the OEIC Regulations). Each Sub-fund would be a UCITS scheme if it had a separate authorisation order.

The shareholders are not liable for the debts of the Company.

## STATEMENT OF THE AUTHORISED FUND MANAGER'S (AFM'S) RESPONSIBILITIES

The rules of the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook require the Authorised Fund Manager to prepare financial statements for each accounting period which give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company at the end of the financial period and its net revenue and net capital losses for the period. In preparing these financial statements the Authorised Fund Manager is required to:

>comply with the Prospectus, the Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds issued by the Investment Association in May 2014, the Instrument of Incorporation, generally accepted accounting principles and applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures which are required to be disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

- > select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- > make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- > prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Company will continue in operation for the foreseeable future.

The Authorised Fund Manager is required to keep proper accounting records and to manage the Company in accordance with the COLL regulations, the Instrument of Incorporation, and the Prospectus. The Authorised Fund Manager is responsible for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### **DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT**

David Esm

In accordance with the requirements of the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Scheme's Sourcebook, we hereby certify the interim report.

David E. Smith CA

Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited Authorised Fund Manager

Date 30 August 2023

#### SUB-FUND OVERVIEW

Name of Sub-fund

VT Teviot UK Smaller Companies Fund

Size of Sub-fund

£77,558,717

Launch date

29 August 2017

## Sub-fund objective and policy

The investment objective of the VT Teviot UK Smaller Companies Fund is to achieve a total return (of growth and income, after fees) greater than the Benchmark Index over the long term. The Benchmark Index is the Numis Smaller Companies Index (including AIM but excluding investment Companies).

The Sub-fund will seek to achieve its investment objective by investing in a diversified portfolio of companies which shall primarily consist of small UK quoted companies. Small companies are those having a market capitalisation, at the time of purchase, equal to or lower than the largest company in the Numis Smaller Companies Index (including AIM but excluding investment companies).

The investments held by the Sub-fund will be primarily in companies domiciled, incorporated or having a significant part of their business in the UK.

The Manager actively manages the portfolio in order to achieve the objective and will not be restricted in respect of investments by industrial sectors.

In seeking investments the approach will be fundamental in nature: rigorous financial analysis of prospective and existing investments and regular contact with the management of these companies. The emphasis within the portfolio will reflect the desire to invest in companies whose shares represent relatively attractive value within the given stock market context.

The Sub-fund's eligible markets, as defined in COLL, include the Official List of the London Stock Exchange plc ("LSE") and the Alternative Investment Market ("AIM") of the LSE. The Sub-fund's base currency is Pounds Sterling.

The Sub-fund will not invest in any immovable property or tangible moveable property.

In addition to equities, the asset classes in which the Sub-fund may invest includes transferable securities, units in collective investment schemes, money-market instruments, cash and near cash and deposits to the extent permitted for UCITS schemes pursuant to the rules in COLL and in accordance with the Sub-fund's investment powers as set out in the Prospectus.

As indicated above, the Sub-fund aims to achieve a total return over the longer term. Nevertheless capital is in fact at risk and there is no guarantee that a total return will be achieved over that specific, or any, time period.

#### Performance Benchmark

The performance benchmark is the Numis Smaller Companies Index (including AIM but excluding investment companies). The performance of the Sub-fund can be compared against that of the benchmark. This benchmark has been selected as it is considered that this index most closely reflects the investments which the Sub-fund will make (and its risk/return objectives). For the avoidance of doubt, the Investment Manager is not bound or influenced by the index when making its decisions and can make investments that are not included in the index.

#### **Derivatives**

The Sub-fund may hold derivatives for efficient portfolio management purposes. It is not intended that the use of derivatives for efficient portfolio management purposes will increase the risk profile of the Sub-fund.

## **SUB-FUND OVERVIEW (Continued)**

Authorised Fund Manager (AFM) Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited

**Ex-distribution dates** 30 June, 31 December

**Distribution dates** 31 August, 28 February

Individual Savings Account (ISA)

The Company is a qualifying investment for inclusion in an ISA.

Share Classes Net Accumulation

Net Income

Gross Accumulation Gross Income

Type of Shares Net Accumulation and Net Income shares will be available at the launch date. No

distinction is being drawn between institutional and retail share classes.

Minimum investment

Lump sum subscription: Net Accumulation/Income = £1,000

Gross Accumulation/Income = £1,000

Top-up: Net Accumulation/Income = £500

Gross Accumulation/Income = £500

Holding: Net Accumulation/Income = £500

Gross Accumulation/Income = £500

Redemption: £500 (provided minimum holding is maintained)

Switching: £500 (provided minimum holding is maintained)

The ACD may waive the minimum levels at its discretion.

Initial, redemption and switching charges Nil

Annual management charges

The annual management charges are: £30,000 per annum plus

Net Accumulation/Income = 0.75% Gross Accumulation/Income = 0.75%

The above percentages being percentages of the net asset value of the Fund attributable to the relevant class (plus VAT if applicable).

The fixed element of the fee shall rise annually in line with the rate of inflation (calculated in accordance with the Consumer Price Index) on 1 July each year from 1 July 2018. In the event of negative inflation the fixed element of the fee shall remain unchanged.

## **Investment Restrictions**

The Sub-fund may not invest more than 10% of its value in other collective investment schemes and may not invest in other Sub-funds of the Company.

#### Introduction

The VT Teviot UK Smaller Companies Fund is nearly six years old, having launched in August 2017. Our excellent returns since launch - in terms of absolute and relative investment performance - were recognised in July 2022 when we won Investment Week's "Fund Manager of the Year Award 2022" in the UK Smaller Companies category. We were shortlisted for

The bedrock of our success has been the respect for liquidity in an illiquid asset class. The capacity of the UK Smaller Companies strategy is limited, and we aim to sustain our ability to generate strong returns by not growing assets beyond the natural capacity of the strategy.

#### Performance

In the six months to June 2023, the Fund was down by 1.6% (Net Accumulation). This outperformed the Fund's benchmark, the Numis Smaller Companies Index (excluding investment companies, including AIM), which fell by 2.2%. The Fund's cumulative performance since launch is now +70.2% (Net Accumulation), compared to a benchmark total return of +5.2%.

After a strong Q4 2022 for UK small caps, the year began somewhat exuberantly with the Index up 5% in January. Many of the biggest risers were new entrants into the Index after the annual rebalancing - stocks which had heavily underperformed in 2022 but then rallied strongly as investor sentiment improved. Most of these stocks fell back during the rest of the half as trading updates disappointed, but several (not owned by the Fund) such as Carnival, Burford, Pets at Home and Fevertree did strongly out-perform and thus cost the Fund relative performance. Offsetting this, the Fund's best contributors to performance included food & drink wholesaler Kitwave (+63% in the period), support services stock Mears (+40%), eyeware company Inspecs (+149%) and travel company Jet2 (+30%). All four had positive newsflow regarding current trading and their outlooks. In addition, two of the Fund's holdings received takeover approaches – Sureserve (+42%) and Lookers (+61%). Although the Lookers takeover was subsequently renegotiated in late-July after a key shareholder withdrew its consent (and may therefore not complete), we would expect M&A to remain a feature given the undervaluation of UK small caps compared to historic norms.

Key detractors in the half were Drax (-17%; Government deferral of Drax's carbon capture plans), Videndum (-34%; weaker trading in TV and film production, affected by US strikes), Gulf Keystone (-37% - suspension of oil exports due to a pipeline shutdown) and Energean (-19%; continued weaker gas prices).

Sectorally, relative to the Index, the Fund continues to be underweight Financials, Real Estate, Basic Materials, Consumer Discretionary, Technology and Health Care; and overweight Industrials (largely via the Industrial Support Services sub-sector), Utilities, Consumer Staples and Telecoms. The underweight in Health Care was beneficial, whilst amongst the sub-sectors, the Fund's overweight positions in Personal Care & Grocery and Construction & Materials served it well. Meanwhile, our overweight in Utilities was detrimental as was our underweight position in consumer-exposed areas such as Travel & Leisure and Retailers (these were hit hard in 2022 but have rallied as energy costs reduced and trading improved). Underweights in the Banks and Electronic & Electrical sub-sectors also proved unhelpful.

## **Portfolio Activity**

In addition to reinvesting the cash received from the takeovers of RPS Group and Devro, there was also some recycling of the profits from the strong performances of larger holdings such as Kitwave and Mears. A focus was made on new holdings that have been hit hard by the global downturn, or to gain exposure to sectors where we were underweight and felt that valuations have become more attractive - thus offering recovery potential when the economic cycle turns upwards. Examples include Gamma Communications (telecoms services), Integrafin (owner of the Transact investment platform), Redde Northgate (vehicle services) and NCC (cyber security and escrow services). For the same reasons, existing holdings in Clarkson (shipping services), Tyman (door and window security products) and Keller (geotechnical contractor for construction) were added to. Holdings in stocks where we had less conviction in their recovery potential were cut (Essentra, R&Q) or reduced (Avon Protection, C&C).

#### Income

The Fund declared an interim distribution (Net Accumulation) of 2.7349p compared with 2.5439p in the first half of 2022, an increase of 7.5%. Given the investment style of the manager, dividends are an important component of long-term investment returns, and the portfolio will typically exhibit a yield premium relative to the investment benchmark.

## **INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REVIEW (Continued)**

#### Outlook

Investor confidence remains fragile and small caps tend to suffer in times of uncertainty, being more illiquid, and generally more cyclical and domestic-oriented. However, the Index was down 22% in 2022 and a further -2.2% in this half-year. This compares to UK large cap indices that are comfortably up over this period. Naturally, this also reflects how much investor capital has already been withdrawn from our Index, and how much potential investor capital is currently sat on the sidelines, waiting for the perceived 'right moment'. In our experience, the nature of an illiquid asset class makes it nigh-on impossible to accurately predict this timing. Many small cap valuations are discounting a severe reduction in earnings, which may prove overly pessimistic. When net capital flows into our Index turn positive then prices could move noticeably. Our portfolio is oriented towards robust franchises that are resilient, have pricing power to offset inflation and with modest financial leverage. Our "value" bias should keep serving us well in a world of higher interest rates, as "growth" companies struggle to justify their high multiples and need to adjust their strategies to try to generate cash (or preserve their dwindling resources).

The global backdrop remains unsettled, but inflation may have finally peaked, reducing the need for prolonged interest rate rises. We will continue – with suitable caution - to rotate our capital into cyclical recovery as the outlook starts improving.

Our conclusion remains consistent with previous reports. In an uncertain political and economic environment, the most effective strategy will be to preserve our liquidity advantage so that we can respond and capitalise as events unfold. We have a broad investment universe that continues to present good opportunities and we will constantly refine the portfolio to optimise the combination of value and prospects.

Teviot Partners LLP Investment Manager to the Fund 28 July 2023

# PERFORMANCE RECORD

| Financial Highlights   | Period ended 30  | Year ended                                     | Year ended  |
|--|--|--|---|
| Net Accumulation   | June 2023  | 31 December 2022                               | 31 December 2021                                      |
| Changes in net assets per share  | GBp  | GBp  | GBp   |
| Opening net asset value per share  | 173.0120   | 199.4404                                       | 154.4885  |
| Return before operating charges  | (2.0754)   | (24.8269)                                      | 46.4207   |
| Operating charges (note 1)   | (0.7465)   | (1.6015)                                       | (1.4688)  |
| Return after operating charges *   | (2.8219)   | (26.4284)                                      | 44.9519   |
| Closing net asset value per share  | 170.1901   | 173.0120                                       | 199.4404  |
| Retained distributions on accumulated shares   | 2.7349   | 4.7380   | 2.3514  |
| *after direct transactions costs of:   | 0.1544   | 0.3538   | 0.5840  |
| Performance  |  |  |   |
| Return after charges   | (1.63%)  | (13.25%)                                       | 29.10%  |
| Other information  |  |  |   |
| Closing net asset value  | £46,944,161  | £42,511,489                                    | £42,981,132   |
| Closing number of shares   | 27,583,366   | 24,571,405                                     | 21,550,869  |
| Operating charges (note 2)   | 0.87%  | 0.86%  | 0.83%   |
| Direct transaction costs   | 0.09%  | 0.19%  | 0.33%   |
| Prices   |  |  |   |
| Highest share price  | 181.9237   | 201.4447                                       | 206.1110  |
| Lowest share price   | 166.3307   | 156.6567                                       | 154.2892  |
| Net Income   | Period ended 30<br>June 2023                           | Year ended<br>31 December 2022                 | Year ended<br>31 December 2021                        |
| Changes in net assets per share  | GBp  | GBp  | GBp   |
| Opening net asset value per share  | 156.8719   | 185.8778                                       | 145.9027  |
| Return before operating charges  | (1.8879)   | (23.1389)                                      | 43.5662   |
| Operating charges (note 1)   | (0.6714)   | (1.4738)                                       | (1.3769)  |
| Return after operating charges *   | (2.5593)   | (24.6127)                                      | 42.1893   |
| Distribution on income shares  | (2.4791)   | (4.3932)                                       | (2.2142)  |
| Closing net asset value per share  | 151.8335   | 156.8719                                       | 185.8778  |
|  |  |  |   |
| *after direct transactions costs of:   | 0.1389   | 0.3256   | 0.5474  |
|  | 0.1389   | 0.3256   | 0.5474  |
| *after direct transactions costs of:  Performance Return after charges   | 0.1389<br>(1.63%)                                      | 0.3256   | 0.5474<br>28.92%                                      |
| Performance Return after charges   |  |  |   |
| Performance Return after charges Other information   | (1.63%)  | (13.24%)                                       | 28.92%  |
| Performance Return after charges  Other information Closing net asset value  | (1.63%)<br>£31,260,056                                 | (13.24%)<br>£33,336,568                        | 28.92%<br>£44,932,481                                 |
| Performance Return after charges  Other information Closing net asset value Closing number of shares   | (1.63%)<br>£31,260,056<br>20,588,380                   | (13.24%)<br>£33,336,568<br>21,250,823          | 28.92%<br>£44,932,481<br>24,173,130                   |
| Performance Return after charges  Other information Closing net asset value Closing number of shares Operating charges (note 2)  | (1.63%)<br>£31,260,056<br>20,588,380<br>0.87%          | (13.24%)<br>£33,336,568<br>21,250,823<br>0.86% | 28.92%<br>£44,932,481<br>24,173,130<br>0.83%          |
| Performance Return after charges  Other information Closing net asset value Closing number of shares   | (1.63%)<br>£31,260,056<br>20,588,380                   | (13.24%)<br>£33,336,568<br>21,250,823          | 28.92%<br>£44,932,481<br>24,173,130                   |
| Performance Return after charges  Other information Closing net asset value Closing number of shares Operating charges (note 2) Direct transaction costs  Prices                     | £31,260,056<br>20,588,380<br>0.87%<br>0.09%            | £33,336,568<br>21,250,823<br>0.86%<br>0.19%    | 28.92%<br>£44,932,481<br>24,173,130<br>0.83%<br>0.33% |
| Performance Return after charges  Other information Closing net asset value Closing number of shares Operating charges (note 2) Direct transaction costs  Prices Highest share price | (1.63%)<br>£31,260,056<br>20,588,380<br>0.87%<br>0.09% | £33,336,568<br>21,250,823<br>0.86%<br>0.19%    | 28.92%<br>£44,932,481<br>24,173,130<br>0.83%<br>0.33% |
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# **PERFORMANCE RECORD (Continued)**

## **Financial Highlights (Continued)**

- 1. The operating charges per share figure is calculated by applying the operating charges percentage to the average net asset valuation per share throughout the period.
- 2. The operating charges percentage is based on the expenses incurred during the period annualised, as a proportion of the average net asset value of the Sub-fund.

#### **Risk Profile**

Based on past data, the Sub-fund is ranked a '6' on the synthetic risk and reward indicator scale (of 1 to 7) as described fully in the Key Investor Information Document (31 December 2022: ranked 6). The Sub-fund is ranked 6 because monthly historical performance data indicates that significant rises and falls in market prices would have occurred historically.

# PORTFOLIO SUMMARY

| As at 30 June 2023                                     |           | Market     | Total Net |         |
|--|-----------|------------|-----------|---------|
|  |           | Value      | Asset     | Index 1 |
| Investment   | Holding   | £          | %         | %       |
| Total Equities (31.12.2022 : 96.39%)                   |           | 75,132,525 | 96.88%    | 100.00% |
| Oil & Gas Producers (31.12.2022 : 7.14%)               |           | 3,464,721  | 4.48%     | 4.04%   |
| Capricorn Energy                                       | 194,228   | 355,437    | 0.46%     |         |
| Diversified Energy Company                             | 460,000   | 403,880    | 0.52%     |         |
| Energean   | 120,000   | 1,215,600  | 1.57%     |         |
| Gulf Keystone Petroleum                                | 477,000   | 578,124    | 0.75%     |         |
| Serica Energy  | 440,000   | 911,680    | 1.18%     |         |
| Chemicals (31.12.2022 : 1.58%)                         |           | 828,811    | 1.07%     | 1.91%   |
| Zotefoams  | 240,235   | 828,811    | 1.07%     |         |
| Mining (31.12.2022 : 4.00%)                            |           | 2,947,593  | 3.80%     | 3.77%   |
| Atalaya Mining   | 401,000   | 1,283,200  | 1.65%     | 3.77 /0 |
| Central Asia Metals                                    | 356,000   | 642,936    | 0.83%     |         |
| Ecora Resources  | 885,145   | 1,021,457  | 1.32%     |         |
|  |           | ,- , -     |           |         |
| Construction & Materials (31.12.2022 : 5.41%)          |           | 4,854,530  | 6.25%     | 5.01%   |
| Alumasc Group  | 361,000   | 523,450    | 0.67%     |         |
| Costain Group  | 1,315,000 | 606,215    | 0.78%     |         |
| Keller Group   | 201,900   | 1,397,148  | 1.80%     |         |
| Norcros  | 602,200   | 1,026,751  | 1.32%     |         |
| Tyman  | 415,000   | 1,068,625  | 1.38%     |         |
| Vistry Group   | 35,499    | 232,341    | 0.30%     |         |
| Aerospace & Defense (31.12.2022 : 3.15%)               |           | 1,669,968  | 2.15%     | 1.70%   |
| Avon Protection  | 23,018    | 195,193    | 0.25%     | _       |
| Qinetiq Group  | 254,000   | 901,700    | 1.16%     |         |
| Chemring Group   | 202,500   | 573,075    | 0.74%     |         |
| General Industrials (31.12.2022 : 1.15%)               |           | 1,110,394  | 1.43%     | 0.89%   |
| Macfarlane Group                                       | 1,028,143 | 1,110,394  | 1.43%     |         |
| Electronic & Electrical Equipment (31.12.2022 : 0.76%) |           | 774,756    | 1.00%     | 2.86%   |
| TT electronics   | 396,000   | 631,224    | 0.81%     | 2.0070  |
| Gooch & Housego  | 23,453    | 143,532    | 0.19%     |         |
| Industrial Engineering (31.12.2022 : 3.64%)            |           | 2,752,816  | 3.55%     | 1.30%   |
| Severfield   | 1,381,660 | 950,582    | 1.23%     | 1.50 /6 |
| Trifast  | 1,334,217 | 1,040,689  | 1.34%     |         |
| Videndum   | 111,500   | 761,545    | 0.98%     |         |
|  | ,000      | ,          | 0.0070    |         |
| Industrial Transportation (31.12.2022 : 1.27%)         |           | 1,627,185  | 2.10%     | 1.71%   |
| Braemar Shipping Services                              | 80,000    | 184,800    | 0.24%     |         |
| Clarkson   | 25,767    | 753,685    | 0.97%     |         |
| Ocean Wilsons Holdings                                 | 71,000    | 688,700    | 0.89%     |         |
| Food Producers (31.12.2022 : 5.25%)                    |           | 3,057,669  | 3.94%     | 2.09%   |
| M P Evans Group  | 93,511    | 654,577    | 0.84%     |         |
| Premier Foods  | 1,207,600 | 1,560,219  | 2.01%     |         |
| Wynnstay Group   | 181,263   | 842,873    | 1.09%     |         |

| As at 30 June 2023                                     |           | Market                        | Total Net             |        |
|--|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------|
|  |           | Value                         | Asset                 | Index  |
| Investment   | Holding   | £                             | %                     | %      |
| Support Services (31.12.2022 : 15.08%)                 |           | 10,707,118                    | 13.80%                | 7.69%  |
| De La Rue  | 484,501   | 218,268                       | 0.28%                 |        |
| Hargreaves Services                                    | 215,665   | 841,094                       | 1.08%                 |        |
| Mears Group  | 783,000   | 2,274,615                     | 2.93%                 |        |
| Renewi   | 269,000   | 1,366,520                     | 1.76%                 |        |
| Ricardo  | 250,319   | 1,426,818                     | 1.84%                 |        |
| Science Group  | 157,540   | 661,668                       | 0.85%                 |        |
| Speedy Hire  | 2,135,000 | 770,735                       | 0.99%                 |        |
| SThree   | 397,000   | 1,369,650                     | 1.77%                 |        |
| Sureserve Group  | 1,090,000 | 1,346,150                     | 1.74%                 |        |
| Staffline Group  | 1,660,000 | 431,600                       | 0.56%                 |        |
| Haveahald Coods & Hama Construction (24.42.2022 - 2.00 | 20/1      | 2 224 055                     | 4.000/                | 4.050/ |
| Household Goods & Home Construction (31.12.2022 : 3.66 |           | 3,324,855                     | 4.28%                 | 1.85%  |
| DFS Furniture  | 263,421   | 281,860                       | 0.36%                 |        |
| Headlam Group  | 355,000   | 883,950                       | 1.14%                 |        |
| Inspecs Group  | 907,467   | 998,214                       | 1.29%                 |        |
| UP Global Sourcing Holdings                            | 386,875   | 483,594                       | 0.62%                 |        |
| Watkin Jones   | 370,000   | 266,030                       | 0.34%                 |        |
| Wickes Group   | 339,000   | 411,207                       | 0.53%                 |        |
| Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology (31.12.2022 : 2.52%)   |           | 1,427,410                     | 1.84%                 | 2.30%  |
| ECO Animal Health Group                                | 568,250   | 568,250                       | 0.73%                 |        |
| Indivior   | 47,000    | 859,160                       | 1.11%                 |        |
| General Retailers (31.12.2022 : 5.27%)                 |           | 4,919,374                     | 6.34%                 | 3.60%  |
| Kitwave Group  | 631,582   | 1,831,588                     | 2.36%                 | 0.0070 |
| RHI Magnesita  | 33,700    | 895,746                       | 1.15%                 |        |
| Studio Retail Group <sup>2</sup>                       | 605,378   | -                             | 0.00%                 |        |
| Lookers  | 1,131,810 | 1,349,118                     | 1.74%                 |        |
| Mothercare   | 4,245,701 | 225,022                       | 0.29%                 |        |
|  |           | •                             |                       |        |
| Xaar   | 370,000   | 617,900                       | 0.80%                 |        |
| Media (31.12.2022 : 5.04%)                             |           | 3,517,290                     | 4.54%                 | 4.06%  |
| Ebiquity   | 1,022,605 | 470,398                       | 0.61%                 |        |
| Future   | 78,186    | 528,928                       | 0.68%                 |        |
| STV Group  | 314,000   | 700,220                       | 0.90%                 |        |
| Smoove   | 732,939   | 244,802                       | 0.32%                 |        |
| Wilmington   | 561,765   | 1,572,942                     | 2.03%                 |        |
| Travel & Leisure (31.12.2022 : 2.51%)                  |           | 2,452,781                     | 3.17%                 | 7.39%  |
| Jet2   | 114,100   | 1,415,981                     | 1.83%                 |        |
| Playtech   | 120,000   | 698,400                       | 0.90%                 |        |
| XP Factory   | 1,880,000 | 338,400                       | 0.44%                 |        |
| Electricity /24 42 2022 • 2 049/ \                     |           | 1 004 040                     | 2 250/                | 0.520/ |
| Electricity (31.12.2022 : 3.01%) Drax Group            | 319,000   | <b>1,824,042</b><br>1,824,042 | <b>2.35%</b><br>2.35% | 0.53%  |
| •  | ,         |                               |                       |        |
| Software & Computer Services (31.12.2022 : 5.98%)      |           | 5,368,492                     | 6.91%                 | 8.89%  |
| Aptitude Software Group                                | 254,500   | 870,390                       | 1.12%                 |        |
| Eckoh  | 1,254,464 | 451,607                       | 0.58%                 |        |
| EMIS Group   | 63,624    | 871,649                       | 1.12%                 |        |
| QGeo Group   | 386,722   | 951,336                       | 1.23%                 |        |
| NCC Group  | 387,000   | 373,842                       | 0.48%                 |        |
| RM   | 748,000   | 613,360                       | 0.79%                 |        |
| IXIVI  |           |                               |                       |        |
| Tracsis  | 93,353    | 830,842                       | 1.07%                 |        |

# **PORTFOLIO SUMMARY (Continued)**

| As at 30 June 2023                                     |           | Market     | Total Net |         |
|--|-----------|------------|-----------|---------|
|  |           | Value      | Asset     | Index   |
| Investment   | Holding   | £          | %         | %       |
| Technology Hardware & Equipment (31.12.2022 : 2.32%)   |           | 1,544,651  | 1.99%     | 1.33%   |
| Aferian  | 299,000   | 34,385     | 0.04%     |         |
| Fonix Mobile   | 523,808   | 1,099,997  | 1.42%     |         |
| Vianet Group   | 482,669   | 410,269    | 0.53%     |         |
| Nonlife Insurance (31.12.2022 : 1.29%)                 |           | 1,199,501  | 1.55%     | 1.35%   |
| Sabre Insurance Group                                  | 884,588   | 1,199,501  | 1.55%     |         |
| Real Estate Investment & Services (31.12.2022 : 3.02%) |           | 2,761,835  | 3.56%     | 2.21%   |
| Belvoir Group  | 392,216   | 804,043    | 1.04%     |         |
| CLS Holdings   | 470,000   | 636,380    | 0.82%     |         |
| Harworth Group   | 565,000   | 598,900    | 0.77%     |         |
| LSL Property Services                                  | 258,040   | 722,512    | 0.93%     |         |
| Financial Services (31.12.2022 : 8.92%)                |           | 8,111,527  | 10.46%    | 1.81%   |
| Begbies Traynor Group                                  | 545.000   | 708,500    | 0.91%     |         |
| Distribution Finance Capital Holdings                  | 1,635,000 | 555,900    | 0.72%     |         |
| Duke Royalty   | 1,240,000 | 396,800    | 0.51%     |         |
| Integrafin Holding                                     | 272,000   | 656,064    | 0.85%     |         |
| Liontrust Asset Management                             | 77,000    | 550,935    | 0.71%     |         |
| Mattioli Woods   | 130,000   | 793,000    | 1.02%     |         |
| OSB Group  | 186,000   | 893,916    | 1.15%     |         |
| Peel Hunt  | 326,725   | 329,992    | 0.43%     |         |
| Rathbones Group  | 79,300    | 1,470,222  | 1.90%     |         |
| TP ICAP  | 382,000   | 574,528    | 0.74%     |         |
| XPS Pensions Group                                     | 662,000   | 1,181,670  | 1.52%     |         |
| Beverages (31.12.2022 : 1.10%)                         |           | 340,450    | 0.44%     | 1.40%   |
| C&C Group  | 275,000   | 340,450    | 0.44%     | 1.40%   |
| Forestry and Paper (31.12.2022 : 0.07%)                |           | _          | _         | 0.13%   |
| 101estry and 1 aper (31.12.2022 : 0.01 /0)             |           |            |           | 0.13/6  |
| Banks (31.12.2022 : 0.89%)                             |           | 808,600    | 1.04%     | 2.71%   |
| Secure Trust Bank                                      | 130,000   | 808,600    | 1.04%     | 2.7170  |
| Automobiles & Parts (31.12.2022 : 1.15%)               |           | 1,553,565  | 2.00%     | 1.66%   |
| CT Automotive Group                                    | 244,299   | 95,277     | 0.12%     | 1.00/0  |
| Redde Northgate  | 200,000   | 750,000    | 0.12%     |         |
| TI Fluid Systems                                       | 527,000   | 708,288    | 0.91%     |         |
| Fixed Line Telecommunications (31.12.2022 : 1.21%)     |           | 1,061,472  | 1.38%     | 1.03%   |
| Telecom Plus   | 62,958    | 1,061,472  | 1.38%     | 1.03 /6 |
| Telecommunications Equipment (31.12.2022 : 0.00%)      |           | 1,121,119  | 1.46%     | 0.64%   |
| Gamma Communications                                   | 98,000    | 1,121,119  | 1.46%     | U.U470  |
|  |           |            |           |         |
| Total Equities (31.12.2022 : 96.39%)                   |           | 75,132,525 | 96.88%    |         |
| Other net assets (31.12.2022 : 3.61%)                  |           | 2,426,192  | 3.12%     |         |
| Total Net Assets                                       |           | 77,558,717 | 100.00%   |         |

<sup>1.</sup> Numis Smaller Companies Index (including AIM but excluding investment companies)

<sup>2.</sup> Studio Retail Group was suspended from dealing on 14 February 2022 and entered administration on 24 February 2022. The AFM has fair value priced the holding at 0p per share.

# SUMMARY OF MATERIAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES

| Purchases                      | £          | Sales                                 | £         |
|--------------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Gamma Communications           | 1,166,183  | RPS Group                             | 1,263,180 |
| Integrafin Holding             | 830,234    | Devro                                 | 1,204,403 |
| Redde Northgate                | 764,425    | Essentra                              | 487,226   |
| Clarkson                       | 644,217    | Avon Protection                       | 389,463   |
| Tyman                          | 498,700    | Mears Group                           | 385,695   |
| Watkin Jones                   | 401,127    | Indivior                              | 380,460   |
| NCC Group                      | 389,519    | Lookers                               | 351,777   |
| Telecom Plus                   | 388,227    | C&C Group                             | 316,756   |
| Keller Group                   | 280,778    | Qinetiq Group                         | 271,796   |
| Tracsis                        | 259,756    | Randall & Quilter Investment Holdings | 242,188   |
| Secure Trust Bank              | 258,538    | Restaurant Group                      | 229,134   |
| Mattioli Woods                 | 249,277    | Kitwave Group                         | 224,360   |
| Ecora Resources                | 232,115    | Staffline Group                       | 187,082   |
| Restaurant Group               | 209,405    | Energean                              | 146,046   |
| Zotefoams                      | 196,423    | log                                   | 124,150   |
| Macfarlane Group               | 192,463    | Pressure Technologies                 | 87,887    |
| Wilmington                     | 185,980    | Ricardo                               | 72,092    |
| Liontrust Asset Management     | 185,977    | Capricorn Energy                      | 71,611    |
| Mears Group                    | 170,681    | M P Evans Group                       | 67,521    |
| Wynnstay Group                 | 168,617    | Renewi                                | 53,197    |
| Other Purchases                | 5,060,129  | Other Sales                           | 404,292   |
| Total Purchases for the period | 12,732,771 | Total Sales for the period            | 6,960,316 |

The above transactions represent the largest purchases and sales during the period.

## STATEMENT OF TOTAL RETURN

Dilution levies

investment activities (see above)

| For the six mo    | nth period ended 30 June (unaudited)               |              |             | 004       | ••           |
|-------------------|--|--------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
|                   |  | 202<br>£     | £           | 202<br>£  | £            |
| Income            | Net capital losses                                 |              | (2,605,819) |           | (12,148,087) |
|                   | Revenue  | 1,503,157    |             | 1,362,653 |              |
| Expenses          |  | (341,477)    |             | (341,959) |              |
| Interest payable  | and similar charges                                |              |             | (602)     |              |
| Net revenue bef   | fore taxation                                      | 1,161,680    |             | 1,020,092 |              |
| Taxation          |  |              |             | <u>-</u>  |              |
| Net revenue afte  | er taxation  | <del>-</del> | 1,161,680   | _         | 1,020,092    |
| Total return befo | ore distributions                                  |              | (1,444,139) |           | (11,127,995) |
| Finance costs: o  | distributions                                      | _            | (1,245,479) | -         | (1,105,581)  |
| -                 | t assets attributable to rom investment activities | -            | (2,689,618) | -         | (12,233,576) |
| STATEMENT C       | OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO           | SHAREHOLDER  | s           |           |              |
| For the six mor   | nth period ended 30 June (unaudited)               |              | 2023<br>£   |           | 2022<br>£    |
| Opening net as    | ssets attributable to shareholders                 |              | 75,130,093  |           | 87,288,179   |
| Amounts receive   | able on creation of shares                         |              | 13,391,397  |           | 6,918,784    |
| Amounts payable   | le on cancellation of shares                       |              | (9,253,219) |           | (11,329,288) |
| Dividends reinve  | ested  |              | 754,375     |           | 494,093      |

The Investment Association SORP requires that comparatives are shown for the above report. As comparatives should be for the comparable interim period the net asset value at the end of the period will not agree to the net asset value at the start of the period. The company net asset value as at 31 December 2022 was £75,130,093.

225,689

(2,689,618)

77,558,717

Changes in net assets attributable to shareholders from

Closing net assets attributable to shareholders

150,303

(12,233,576)

71,288,495

# **BALANCE SHEET**

| As at                                      | 30.06.2023                              |             | 31.12.2022      |                   |
|--|---|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
|  | £                                       | £           | £               | £                 |
| ACCETC                                     |   |             |                 |                   |
| ASSETS                                     |   |             |                 | <b>70.100.011</b> |
| Investment assets                          |   | 75,132,525  |                 | 72,429,011        |
| Current Assets                             |   |             |                 |                   |
| Debtors                                    | 3,248,274                               |             | 121,424         |                   |
| Cash and bank balances                     | 2,352,270                               |             | 3,163,016       |                   |
|  | 2,332,270                               | - coo - 11  | 3,103,010       | 0.004.440         |
| Total current assets                       | _                                       | 5,600,544   | _               | 3,284,440         |
| Total assets                               |   | 80,733,069  |                 | 75,713,451        |
|  |   |             |                 |                   |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES                        |   |             |                 |                   |
| Creditors                                  |   |             |                 |                   |
| Distribution payable on income shares      | (510,406)                               |             | (428,195)       |                   |
| Other creditors                            | (2,663,946)                             |             | (155,163)       |                   |
| Total current liabilities                  | ( ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, | (3,174,352) | ( : = ; : = = ) | (583,358)         |
| Net assets attributable to shareholders    | _                                       | 77,558,717  | _               | 75,130,093        |
| iver assers arributable to sital eliciders |   | 11,000,111  |                 | 13,130,093        |

# **Accounting Policies**

The accounting policies applied are consistent with those of the annual financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022 and are described in those annual financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102, the Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds (SORP) issued by the Investment Association (IA) in May 2014 and the amendments to the SORP issued by the IA in June 2017.

## **DISTRIBUTION TABLES**

## For the six months ended 30 June 2023

# Interim distribution in pence per share

Group 1: Shares purchased prior to 01 January 2023

Group 2: Shares purchased on or after 01 January 2023 and on or before 30 June 2023

| Net Income | Net revenue<br>31 August 2023 | Equalisation | Distribution<br>31 August 2023 | Distribution<br>31 August 2022 |
|------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Group 1    | 2.4791p                       | -            | 2.4791p                        | 2.3782p                        |
| Group 2    | 1.6259p                       | 0.8532p      | 2.4791p                        | 2.3782p                        |

| Net Accumulation | Net revenue<br>31 August 2023 | Equalisation | Distribution<br>31 August 2023 | Distribution<br>31 August 2022 |
|------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Group 1          | 2.7349p                       | -            | 2.7349p                        | 2.5439p                        |
| Group 2          | 0.3265p                       | 2.4084p      | 2.7349p                        | 2.5439p                        |

### Individual shareholders

**Income tax**: Tax-free annual dividend allowance now standing at £1,000 (2023/24). UK resident shareholders are now subject to new, higher rates of tax on dividend income in excess of the annual allowance. UK resident shareholders are subject to tax on dividend income in excess of the annual allowance.

#### Capital gains tax:

Individual shareholders resident in the UK for tax purposes may be liable to capital gains tax on realisation of their shares as with other chargeable assets. The first £6,000 (2023/2024) of gains each year are presently tax free for individuals. Gains in excess of that amount are charged at the rate of tax applicable to the individual tax payer.

#### Corporate shareholders

Companies resident for tax purposes in the UK which hold shares should note that OEIC distributions are streamed into both franked and unfranked income. The unfranked income element will be treated as an annual payment which has been subject to income tax at a rate of 20% and will be liable to tax accordingly. On realisation of their shares, UK resident companies may be liable to pay corporation tax on any capital gains.

The above information on taxation is only a general summary, and shareholders should consult their own tax advisors in relation to their own circumstances. Shareholders should also note that the position as outlined may change to reflect future changes in tax legislation.

#### Issue and redemption of shares

Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited is the AFM and Registrar. Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited will receive requests for the purchase or sale of shares at any time during normal business hours (8:30am-5:30pm). Instructions may be given by email (teviot@valu-trac.com) or by sending an application form to the Registrar. Application forms are available from the Registrar.

The price of shares will be determined by reference to a valuation of the Company's net assets at 12 noon daily.

The AFM has the right to reject, on reasonable grounds relating to the circumstances of the applicant, any application for shares in whole or part, and in this event the ACD will return any money sent, or the balance of such monies, at the risk of the applicant. In addition the AFM may reject any application previously accepted in circumstances where the applicant has paid by cheque and that cheque subsequently fails to be cleared.

Any subscription monies remaining after a whole number of shares has been issued will not be returned to the applicant. Instead, smaller denomination shares will be issued in such circumstances.

A contract note giving details of the shares purchased and the price used will be issued by the Registrar by the end of the business day following the valuation point by reference to which the purchase price is determined, together with, where appropriate, a notice of the applicant's right to cancel. Settlement is due four business days after the trade date shown on the contract note and should be made to the AFM's dealing account.

Ownership of shares will be evidenced by an entry on the Company's Register of Shareholders. Certificates will not be issued. Statements in respect of periodic distributions of revenue will show the number of shares held by the recipient in respect of which the distribution is made. Individual statements of a shareholder's (or, when shares are jointly held, the first named holder's) shares will also be issued at any time on request by the registered holder.

Where shares are redeemed, payment will be made not later than the close of business on the fourth business day following the next valuation point after receipt by the AFM of a request for redemption.

The most recent issue and redemption prices are available from the AFM.

## **CORPORATE DIRECTORY**

| Authorised Fund | Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited                     |
|-----------------|---|
| Manager &       | Mains of Orton  |
| Registrar       | Fochabers   |
|                 | Moray   |
|                 | IV32 7QE  |
|                 |   |
|                 | Telephone: 01343 880344                                     |
|                 | Fax: 01343 880267   |
|                 | Email: teviot@valu-trac.com                                 |
|                 |   |
|                 | Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority |
|                 | Registered in England No 2428648                            |
|                 |   |
| Director        | Valu-Trac Investment Management Limited as AFM              |
| Investment      | Teviot Partners LLP   |
| Manager         | 46 Charlotte Square   |
| Manager         | Edinburgh   |
|                 | Scotland  |
|                 | EH2 4HQ   |
|                 | LIZ TIQ   |
|                 | Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority |
|                 | ,                     |
| Depositary      | NatWest Trustee and Depositary Services Limited             |
|                 | House A   |
|                 | Floor 0, 175 Glasgow Road                                   |
|                 | Gogarburn   |
|                 | Edinburgh   |
|                 | EH12 1HQ  |
|                 | Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority |
|                 | Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority |
| Auditor         | Johnston Carmichael LLP                                     |
|                 | Commerce House  |
|                 | South Street  |
|                 | Elgin   |
|                 | IV30 1JE  |
|                 |   |