

# TM STONEHAGE FLEMING

# **OPPORTUNITIES FUND**













#### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The fund aims to achieve long-term capital growth.

#### INVESTMENT POLICY

The Fund aims to invest in equities falling mainly under the following categories: smaller companies which offer long-term growth; companies which offer recovery prospects; and companies in sectors which are perceived to be unduly depressed. There is no geographical restriction but in practice the fund will be mainly invested in the UK.

#### PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE



 $14.87\% \ \text{TM SF Opp Fund B Inc} \quad 19.81\% \ \text{Numis Smaller Companies Ex Inv Comps Index}$ 

#### PORTFOLIO COMMENTARY

The UK Stock Market had a strong month in April when the FTSE 100 benchmark index reached a record high. It was fuelled by takeover developments, for example the £31 billion approach by BHP for Anglo American and the £4.3 billion proposed take-over of Darktrace, the cyber security company. On the political front, the Spring 2024 budget did little to increase the current Government's standing in the opinion polls. Present indications suggest that the Labour Party is likely to be elected and it is difficult to predict the affect that it would have on the Stock Market. However, it will be easier to form a judgement when the election manifestos are produced ahead of the next General election. The Tory Party want to be seen as one for cutting taxes and controlling immigration. It is not clear which pledges the main opposition party might make but it has promised to grow the economy. The previous Labour Government, under Tony Blair, felt that this would be achieved by promoting smaller companies and we assume that both major parties would take the same view. If this is correct it would be a huge incentive for encouraging investment into this area of the stock market. It is hoped that the Bank of England 's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will reduce interest rates before the General Election but this depends on reaching the 2% inflation target. In March UK inflation was 3.2% against 3.4% in the previous month. We would not be surprised and speculate the Conservative Government adjust the inflation target so that a cut can be achieved. In the mean-time Bank Rate has been pegged at 5.5%. Global stock markets have remained mostly firm with a large number of elections due in 2024. The most important is likely to be in the US and, as in the UK, interest rates are unchanged but we think might also be reduced later in the year.

In March there was a lot of selling pressure as investors repositioned portfolios on the run up to the end of the tax year. We are now in the situation where retail investors are subscribing for current year ISA subscriptions and a fair proportion of this new money will be invested in the smaller company area of the stock market. It is noticeable that there has been a small change in sentiment helped by the increase in takeover activity. In this respect one of our larger AIM holdings Lok'n'Store agreed to a £380 million offer from a larger rival Shurgard. Inevitably, a proportion of the proceeds will be recycled into shares of other AIM listed shares and we have sold our holding to reinvest in other attractive investments. UK companies are valued at appealing levels and we would not be surprised to see further takeover activity in the market as the year progresses. We have added to Prudential plc as a share in an out of favour sector of the stock market and Capita plc as a recovery situation. A completely new holding has been taken in JD Sports which is fast becoming a leader in the sports and leisure industry. They also proposed earnings enhancing \$1 billion cash acquisition to increase exposure to the US regarded as its most important market. We have also added to a number of our AIM listed holdings at attractive levels. Moving forward we feel that the portfolio is well placed but mindful of the fact that the unsettled situation in the Middle East and Ukraine can create some ongoing uncertainty.

#### **FUND INFORMATION**

#### **KEY FACTS**

15 February 1988
UK All Companies
£81.4m
Daily
£50,000
£5,000
N/A
Up to 5.00%
0.67%
0.60%

<sup>\*</sup> The OCF is the management fee plus additional fund expenses (excluding transaction costs) as a percentage of the assets of the fund. This gives an indication of annual expenses which may vary over time.

#### STANDARDISED FUND PERFORMANCE (%)

Performance	3m	6m	YTD	lyr	3yrs	5yrs
TM Stonehage Fleming Opportunities Fund B Inc	8.6	16.9	3.5	-3.5	-8.7	14.9
Numis Smaller Companies Ex Inv Comps Index	4.0	18.7	2.0	7.2	-3.8	19.8

## DISCRETE 12 MONTH PERFORMANCE (%)

12 months to 30 April	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
TM Stonehage Fleming Opportunities Fund B Inc	-3.5	-13.9	9.9	67.9	-25.1
Numis Smaller Companies Ex Inv Comps Index	7.2	-3.0	-7.4	55.9	-20.1

#### CALENDAR YEAR PERFORMANCE (%)

Performance	YTD	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
TM Stonehage Fleming Opportunities Fund B Inc	3.5	-15.2	-2.6	27.5	-0.6	24.7
Numis Smaller Companies Ex Iny Comps Index	2.0	10.1	-17.9	21.9	-4.3	25.2

Source: Morningstar as at 30/04/2024, % growth, total return, GBP, single price, UK net income reinvested with no initial charges.

#### PERFORMANCE DISCLOSURE

Past performance is not a guide to future performance. All investments risk the loss of capital. Investors may not get back the original amount invested. Income from investments may vary and is not guaranteed. Performance figures are net of fees and charges. For a full list of risks applicable to this fund, please refer to the Prospectus.

The fund holds a broad range of AIM listed companies and some of these carry a higher risk of failure and may be less liquid than shares listed on other exchanges. These shares may be also harder to sell quickly because of this lower liquidity. AIM listed companies may also experience greater price volatility which could also affect the value of the fund.

Source for all performance is Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Limited as at  $30\,\mathrm{April}\ 2024$ . Total return (with dividends reinvested) is net of fees.

# TM STONEHAGE FLEMING

**B SHARE CLASS GBP** 

# **OPPORTUNITIES FUND**

#### **ENQUIRIES**

# ENQUIRIES AND DEALING 0333 300 0375

(press 1 for Enquiries, press 2 for Dealing)

**DEALING:** 

Thesis Unit Trust Management Limited, PO Box 3733, Royal Wootton Bassett, Swindon, SN4 4BG

SEDOL CODES:

Class B Share 3221110

ISIN CODES:

Class B Share GB0032211103

LIPPER IDS:

Class B Share 60009019

#### **SECTOR ALLOCATION (%)**

Industrials	25.8
Energy	15.7
Information Technology	14.7
Communication Services	8.5
Consumer Discretionary	8.7
Financials	7.7
Health Care	4.8
Materials	4.0
Consumer Staples	2.7
Real Estate	2.6
Cash	1.4

## TOP TEN HOLDINGS (%)

MS International Plc	9.1
Serica Energy Plc	4.2
Costain Group	3.6
M&C Saatchi Plc	3.0
Elementis Plc	2.8
Hunting Ord	2.8
Bango Plac	2.8
Senior Plc	2.7
Avon Rubber Plc	2.7
STV Group	2.6

Source: Morningstar as at 30 April 2024, % growth, total return, GBP, single price, UK net income reinvested with no initial charges.

### **OUTCOME OF FAIR VALUE ASSESSMENTS (2024)**

Our assessment confirms:

- The fund meets the needs of the target market.
- The intended distribution strategy remains appropriate.
- The fund provides fair value to customers.

#### **INVESTOR PROFILE**

The fund is appropriate for all investor types, including those with only a basic knowledge of funds. It is compatible with investors who do not need a capital guarantee (investors must be prepared to accept fluctuations in the value of capital, including the ability to bear 100% capital loss) and are seeking capital growth. Due to the volatility of markets, investors should be willing to accept price fluctuations in exchange for the opportunity of potentially higher returns. This is a long term investment and investors should have an investment time horizon of at least 5 years. The recommended holding period does not provide any guarantee that the objective will be achieved. This product is eligible for all distribution channels (e.g. investment advice, portfolio management, non-advised sales and pure execution services).

The fund is unlikely to be appropriate for those who:

- Are looking for full capital protection or full repayment of the amount invested, and those who want a guaranteed return
- Have no risk tolerance
- Who are unwilling to accept price fluctuations (volatility) in the value of the fund
- Do not intend to invest for the long term

#### **FUND MANAGERS**



#### PAUL MUMFORD

Paul Mumford began his career in 1963 working initially as an Analyst for Norris Oakley Brothers and later as a smaller companies expert at R Nivison. Paul moved to fund management in 1988 when he joined Glenfriars. Paul then joined Cavendish Asset Management at the group's formation in 1994 and funds were launched. The group was subsequently acquired by Stonehage Fleming in July 2020. Paul is the comanager of the TM Stonehage Fleming AIM Fund and the TM Stonehage Fleming Opportunities Fund.



## NICK BURCHETT

Nick Burchett began his career in 1983 at Strauss Turnbull and subsequently joined W.I. Carr in 1990 which later became Investec Wealth & Investment after a number of mergers and acquisitions. Nick dealt extensively with portfolios of UK equities, markets and execution strategies. After 27 years at Investec he joined Cavendish Asset Management in November 2017 to jointly manage this fund. The acquisition of Cavendish Asset Management was subsequently made by Stonehage Fleming in July 2020. Nick is the co-manager of the TM Stonehage Fleming AIM Fund and the TM Stonehage Fleming Opportunities Fund.

#### **AWARDS**







## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This is a marketing communication issued by Stonehage Fleming Investment Management Limited (SFIM). SFIM is the investment manager of the Fund. All investments risk the loss of capital. No guarantee or representation is made that the funds will achieve their investment objective. The value of investments may go down as well as up. For products designed to return income, the distributions can also go down or up and you may not receive back the full value of your initial investment. Derivatives have not been used but are allowed if appropriate for efficient asset management. The Fund only invests in UK assets but is allowed to hold shares on overseas exchanges. This would occur in the event of a company delisting from the London stock market and would not expected to be material. Hence, there would be limited foreign exchange risk. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. If the information is not displayed in your base currency, then the return may increase or decrease due to currency fluctuations. The distribution or possession of this document in jurisdictions outside the United Kingdom may be restricted by law or other regulatory requirements. For details of the Funds investment policy, please see the Investment Objective and Policy section of the Fund Prospectus Document.

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