

The Acorn Trust

Annual Report

for the year ended 30 November 2024

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## The Acorn Trust Report of the Manager

Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited ('EPFL'), as Manager, presents herewith the Annual Report for The Acorn Trust for the year ended 30 November 2024.

The Acorn Trust ('the Trust' or 'the Fund') is an authorised unit trust scheme further to an authorisation order dated 30 January 2012 and is a non-UCITS retail scheme ('NURS') complying with the investment and borrowing powers rules in the Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook ('COLL') and the Investment Funds sourcebook ('FUND'), as published by the Financial Conduct Authority ('FCA'). As the Fund is a NURS, the Manager also acts as Alternative Investment Fund Manager ('AIFM') in order to comply with the Alternative Investment Fund Manager's Directive ('AIFMD').

The Manager is of the opinion that it is appropriate to continue to adopt the going concern basis in the preparation of the accounts as the assets of the Fund consist predominantly of securities which are readily realisable and, accordingly, the Fund has adequate financial resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Further, appropriate accounting policies, consistently applied and supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates, have been used in the preparation of these accounts and applicable accounting standards have been followed.

The Financial Stability Board ('FSB') created the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures ('TCFD') to improve and increase reporting of climate-related financial information. EPFL have produced TCFD reports in compliance with the FCA's rules on climate-related financial disclosures. The TCFD Product report is designed to help you understand the impact the Fund has on the climate and equally how climate change could influence the performance of the Fund. The report will also give you the ability to compare a range of climate metrics with other funds. To understand the governance, strategy, and risk management that EPFL has in place to manage the risks and opportunities related to climate change, please refer to the TCFD Entity report. These reports are available on our website <https://www.evelyn.com/services/fund-solutions/tcdf-reporting/>.

The Trust Deed can be inspected at the offices of the Manager.

Copies of the Prospectus and Key Investor Information Document ('KIID') are available on request free of charge from the Manager.

### Investment objective and policy

The investment objective of the Fund is to achieve a balance between capital growth and income returns by employing a medium risk strategy and investing in any country and in any economic sector of the world.

The Fund will seek to achieve this objective by investing directly or indirectly in a range of asset classes, geographical and economic sectors. The Fund may invest in both regulated and unregulated collective investment schemes, transferable securities, approved money market instruments, deposits and cash or near cash investments, warrants and gold. The Fund may also use derivatives for the purpose of Efficient Portfolio Management ('EPM') only. It is anticipated that the Fund may be significantly invested in collective investment schemes. However, the proportion of the property of the Fund which may be held in the different permitted asset classes, including cash and near cash, may vary from time to time at the Manager's discretion subject to the limitations on investment set out in the FCA COLL sourcebook.

It is the Manager's intention that derivatives and forward transactions will only be used for EPM. The Fund may use derivatives and forward transactions for investment purposes on the giving of 60 days' notice to unitholders. The use of derivatives for investment purposes may alter the risk profile of the Fund.

Please be aware that there is no guarantee that capital will be preserved.

### Changes affecting the Fund in the year

There were no fundamental or significant changes to the Fund in the year.

Further information in relation to the Fund is illustrated on page 43.

In accordance with the requirements of the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook and the Investment Funds sourcebook, we hereby certify the Annual Report on behalf of the Manager, Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited.

Neil Coxhead  
Directors  
Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited  
28 February 2025

Brian McLean

## Statement of the Manager's responsibilities

The Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook ('COLL') and the Investment Funds sourcebook ('FUND') published by the FCA, require the Manager to prepare financial statements for each annual accounting period which give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust and of the net revenue and net capital gains on the scheme property of the Trust for the year.

In preparing the financial statements the Manager is responsible for:

- selecting suitable accounting policies and then applying them consistently;
- making judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- following UK accounting standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland;
- complying with the disclosure requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice for the Financial Statements of UK Authorised Funds ('the SORP') issued by The Investment Association in May 2014 and amended in June 2017;
- keeping proper accounting records which enable it to demonstrate that the financial statements as prepared comply with the above requirements;
- assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern;
- using the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so;
- such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and irregularities; and
- the maintenance and integrity of the Trust's information on the Manager's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.







COLL also requires the Manager to carry out an Assessment of Value on the Trust and publish this assessment within the Annual Report.

The Manager is responsible for the management of the Trust in accordance with the Trust Deed, the Prospectus, COLL and FUND.




## Assessment of Value - The Acorn Trust

In line with the provisions contained within COLL 6.6.20R, the Board of Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited ('EPFL') as Authorised Fund Manager ('AFM'), has carried out an Assessment of Value for The Acorn Trust ('the Trust'). Furthermore, the rules require that EPFL publishes these assessments.

A high-level summary of the outcome of EPFL's rigorous review of the Trust for the year ended 30 November 2024 using the seven criteria set by the FCA is set out below:

1. Quality of Service	
2. Performance	
3. AFM Costs	
4. Economies of Scale	
5. Comparable Market Rates	
6. Comparable Services	
7. Classes of Units	
Overall Rating	

EPFL has adopted a traffic light system to show how it rated the Trust:

-  On balance, the Board believes the Trust has delivered value to unitholders, with no material issues noted.
-  On balance, the Board believes the Trust has delivered value to unitholders, but may require some action.
-  On balance, the Board believes the Trust has not delivered value to unitholders and significant remedial action is now planned by the Board.

How EPFL assessed each of the seven criteria and the rating arrived at are discussed in greater detail on the following pages.

EPFL has created an Assessment of Value Committee ('AVC'), for the review, challenge and approval of all funds' Assessments of Value. Ultimately the assessments will be subject to scrutiny by the Board (which includes independent directors) to ensure the outcomes of the assessments are clear and fair, before final sign-off by the chair of the Board prior to communicating to investors if the Trust has delivered value, and if not, where improvements need to be made.

In carrying out the assessment, the EPFL AVC has separately considered the following seven criteria stipulated by the FCA. The Committee may also have considered other issues where it was deemed appropriate.

EPFL believes the Assessment of Value can make it easier for investors to both evaluate whether the Trust is providing them with value for money and make more informed decisions when choosing investments.

The seven criteria are:

- (1) Quality of service – the quality of every aspect of the service provided, including, for example, accounting, administration, customer services and communications;
- (2) Performance – how the Trust performed, including whether it met targets and objectives, kept to relevant policy, followed relevant principles, kept to reasonable timescales;
- (3) AFM costs – the fairness and value of the Trust's costs, including entry and exit fees, early redemption fees, administration charges;
- (4) Economies of scale – how costs have been or can be reduced as a result of increased assets-under-management ('AUM'), and whether or not those savings have been passed on to investors;
- (5) Comparable market rates – how the costs of the Trust compare with others in the marketplace;
- (6) Comparable services – how the charges applied to the Trust compare with those of other funds administered by EPFL;
- (7) Classes of units – the appropriateness of the classes of units in the Trust for investors.

## Assessment of Value - The Acorn Trust (continued)

### 1. Quality of Service

What was assessed in this section?

#### Internal Factors

EPFL, as AFM, has overall responsibility for the Trust. The Board assessed, amongst other things: the day-to-day administration of the Trust; the maintenance of scheme documentation (such as prospectuses and key investor information documents ('KIIDs')); the pricing and valuation of units; the calculation of income and distribution payments; the maintenance of accounting and other records; the preparation of annual audited and half-yearly Report & Accounts; the review of tax provisions and submission of tax computations to HMRC; the dealing and settlement arrangements and the quality of marketing material sent to unitholders. EPFL delegates the Investment Management of the Trust to two Investment Management firms.

The Board reviewed information provided by EPFL's control functions on the adequacy of its internal services, including governance, operations and monitoring. Elements important to the investor experience such as the timely payment of settlement and distribution monies were also reviewed. Over the past year, EPFL has been audited by internal and external auditors, the Trustee and various EPFL delegated Investment Managers.

#### External Factors

The Board assessed the delegates' skills, processes and experience. Also considered were any results from service review meetings as well as the annual due diligence performed by EPFL on the delegated Investment Managers, Evelyn Partners Investment Management LLP ('EPIM') and Schroder & Co Limited (trading as Cazenove Capital Management) ('Cazenove'), where consideration was given to, amongst other things, the delegates' controls around the Trust's liquidity management.

The Board also considered the nature, extent and quality of administrative and investor services performed under separate agreements covering trustee services, custody, as well as services provided with regard to both audit and legal functions.

What was the outcome of the assessment?

#### Internal Factors

The Board recognised that all distribution and settlement monies were paid in a timely manner and that there were no significant findings as a result of the various audits performed on EPFL during the year. In addition, EPFL has performed its own independent analysis, using automated systems, of the Trust's liquidity. The Board concluded that EPFL had carried out its duties diligently.

#### External Factors

The Board concluded that the nature, extent and quality of the services provided by the external parties have benefitted and should continue to benefit the Trust and its investors.

Were there any follow up actions?

There were no follow-up actions.

### 2. Performance

What was assessed in this section?

The Board reviewed the performance of the Trust, after the deduction of all payments out of the scheme property as set out in the Prospectus. Performance, against the benchmark, was considered over appropriate timescales having regard to the Trusts investment objective, policy and strategy. The Board also considered whether an appropriate level of market risk has been taken.

#### Investment Objective

The investment objective of the Trust is to achieve a balance between capital growth and income returns by employing a medium risk strategy and investing in any country and in any economic sector of the world.

#### Benchmark

As AFM, EPFL is required to explain in a fund's scheme documentation why a benchmark is being used or alternatively, explain how investors should assess performance of a fund in the absence of a benchmark.

## Assessment of Value - The Acorn Trust (continued)

### 2. Performance (continued)

#### Benchmark (continued)

The benchmark for the Trust is the ARC Sterling Steady Growth PCI, which is a comparator. A 'comparator' benchmark is an index or similar factor against which an investment manager invites investors to compare a fund's performance. Details of how the Trust had performed against its comparator benchmark over various timescales can be found below.

#### Cumulative Performance as at 31.10.2024 (%)

	Currency	1 year	3 year	5 year
The Acorn Trust Accumulation	GBX	15.11	4.54	22.86
ARC Sterling Steady Growth PCI	GBP	14.16	1.89	21.97

Data provided by FE Fundinfo. Care has been taken to ensure that the information is correct but FE Fundinfo neither warrants, represents nor guarantees the contents of the information, nor does FE Fundinfo accept any responsibility for errors, inaccuracies, omissions or any inconsistencies herein.

Performance is calculated net of fees. Past performance is not a guide to future performance.

#### What was the outcome of the assessment?

The Board assessed the performance of the Trust over its minimum recommended holding period of five years and observed that it has performed in line with its comparator benchmark, the ARC Sterling Steady Growth PCI.

EPFL assessed the investment risk within the Trust, focusing amongst other things on volatility and risk adjusted returns. The Board concluded that the level of investment risk is appropriate, within its mandated parameters, without taking excessive risk for an actively managed Trust of this type.

The Board found that the Trust is investing in the asset classes permitted by the investment policy and that there have been no breaches of the policy in the last 12 months.

#### Were there any follow up actions?

There were no follow-up actions required.

### 3. AFM Costs

#### What was assessed in this section?

The Board reviewed each separate charge to ensure that they were reasonable and reflected the services provided. This included the annual management charge ('AMC'), Trustee/Custodian fees and audit fee. The AMC includes the Manager's periodic charge and the Investment Manager's fee.

The charges should be transparent and understandable to the investor, with no hidden costs.

#### What was the outcome of the assessment?

The Board received and considered information about each of the Trust's costs, and concluded that they were fair, reasonable and were provided on a competitive basis.

#### Were there any follow up actions?

There were no follow-up actions required.

### 4. Economies of Scale

#### What was assessed in this section?

The Board reviewed each separate fee structure and the AUM of the Trust to examine the effect on the Trust to potential and existing investors should it increase or decrease in value.

#### What was the outcome of the assessment?

Both Investment Manager's fees as well as the AFM fee are on a fixed percentage charge meaning there are no opportunities for savings going forward should the Trust grow in size.

The ancillary charges of the Trust represent 17 basis points<sup>1</sup>. Some of these costs are fixed and as the Trust grows in size, may result in a small reduction in the basis point cost of these services.

#### Were there any follow up actions?

There were no follow-up actions required.

<sup>1</sup> One basis point is equal to 1/100th of 1% or 0.01%. Figure calculated at interim report 31 May 2024.

## Assessment of Value - The Acorn Trust (continued)

### 5. Comparable Market Rates

What was assessed in this section?

The Board reviewed the ongoing charges figure ('OCF') of the Trust, and how those charges affect the returns of the Trust.

The OCF of the Trust was compared against the 'market rate' of similar external funds.

What was the outcome of the assessment?

The OCF of 1.51%<sup>2</sup> was more expensive than those of similar externally managed funds.

Note that EPFL has not charged an entry fee, exit fee or any other event-based fees on this Trust.

Were there any follow up actions?

There was no further action required as the Board were of the opinion that no element within the OCF gave any cause for concern for a mandate of this size.

### 6. Comparable Services

What was assessed in this section?

The Board compared the Investment Manager's fees with those of other funds administered by EPFL having regard to size, investment objectives and policies.

What was the outcome of the assessment?

The Investment Manager's fees were more expensive than other EPFL administered funds displaying similar characteristics.

Were there any follow up actions?

There was no further action required as the Board were of the opinion that the Investment Manager's fee gave no cause for concern.

### 7. Classes of Units

What was assessed in this section?

The Board reviewed the Trust's set-up to ensure that where there are multiple unit classes, unitholders are in the correct unit class given the size of their holding.

What was the outcome of the assessment?

There is only one unit class in the Trust, therefore this part of the assessment does not apply.

Were there any follow up actions?

There were no follow-up actions required.

### Overall Assessment of Value

Notwithstanding the matters referenced in Sections 5 and 6, the Board were of the opinion that The Acorn Trust had delivered value to investors.

Dean Buckley

Chairman of the Board of Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited

7 February 2025

On reviewing this Assessment of Value report, we would welcome invaluable feedback from investors via our short questionnaire which can be found online:

<https://www.evelyn.com/services/fund-solutions/assessment-of-value/>

Investors' views are invaluable to the development and delivery of this report.

Should you be unable to access the questionnaire online please contact us directly on 0141 222 1151 and we will provide you with a paper copy of the questionnaire.

<sup>2</sup> At the interim reporting period 31 May 2024.



## Report of the Trustee to the unitholders of The Acorn Trust

### Trustee's responsibilities

The Trustee must ensure that the Fund is managed in accordance with the Financial Conduct Authority's Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook, the Investment Funds Sourcebook, the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, as amended, (together 'the Regulations'), the Trust Deed and Prospectus (together 'the Scheme documents') as detailed below.

The Trustee must in the context of its role act honestly, fairly, professionally, independently and in the interests of the Fund and its investors.

The Trustee is responsible for the safekeeping of all custodial assets and maintaining a record of all other assets of the Fund in accordance with the Regulations.

The Trustee must ensure that:

- the Fund's cash flows are properly monitored and that cash of the Fund is booked into the cash accounts in accordance with the Regulations;
- the sale, issue, redemption and cancellation of units are carried out in accordance with the Regulations;
- the value of units of the Fund are calculated in accordance with the Regulations;
- any consideration relating to transactions in the Fund's assets is remitted to the Fund within the usual time limits;
- the Fund's revenue is applied in accordance with the Regulations; and
- the instructions of the Alternative Investment Fund Manager ('AIFM') are carried out (unless they conflict with the Regulations).

The Trustee also has a duty to take reasonable care to ensure that the Fund is managed in accordance with the Regulations and the Scheme documents in relation to the investment and borrowing powers applicable to the Fund.

Having carried out such procedures as we consider necessary to discharge our responsibilities as Trustee of the Fund, it is our opinion, based on the information available to us and the explanations provided, that in all material respects the Fund, acting through the AIFM:

- (i) has carried out the issue, sale, redemption and cancellation, and calculation of the price of the Fund's units and the application of the Fund's revenue in accordance with the Regulations and the Scheme documents of the Fund; and
- (ii) has observed the investment and borrowing powers and restrictions applicable to the Fund.

NatWest Trustee and Depositary Services Limited  
28 February 2025

## Independent Auditor's report to the unitholders of The Acorn Trust

### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Acorn Trust (the 'Trust') for the year ended 30 November 2024, which comprise the Statement of total return, Statement of change in net assets attributable to unitholders, Balance sheet, the related Notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies and the Distribution table. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust as at 30 November 2024 and of the net revenue and the net capital gains on the scheme property of the Trust for the year then ended;
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- Have been prepared in accordance with the Investment Association Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds, the rules of the Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook (COLL Rules) of the Financial Conduct Authority and the Trust Deed.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Conclusions Relating to Going Concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Manager's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Manager's with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual Report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Manager is responsible for the other information contained within the Annual Report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

### Opinions on Other Matters Prescribed by the COLL Rules

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- Proper accounting records for the Trust have been kept and the accounts are in agreement with those records;
- We have received all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit; and
- The information given in the Report of the Manager for the year is consistent with the financial statements.

## Independent Auditor's report to the unitholders of The Acorn Trust (continued)

### Responsibilities of the Manager

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Manager's responsibilities set out on page 3, the Manager is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Manager determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Manager is responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Manager either intends to wind up the Trust or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

#### *Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud*

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

We assessed whether the engagement team collectively had the appropriate competence and capabilities to identify or recognise non-compliance with laws and regulations by considering their experience, past performance and support available.

All engagement team members were briefed on relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks at the planning stage of the audit. Engagement team members were reminded to remain alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that are applicable to the Trust and the sector in which it operates, focusing on those provisions that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The most relevant frameworks we identified include:

- UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice including Financial Reporting Standard 102 and the IA Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds;
- The Financial Conduct Authority's COLL Rules;
- The Financial Conduct Authority's Investment Funds sourcebook; and
- The Trust's Prospectus.

We gained an understanding of how the Trust is complying with these laws and regulations by making enquiries of the Manager. We corroborated these enquiries through our review of submitted returns, external inspections, relevant correspondence with regulatory bodies and the Trust's breaches register.

We assessed the susceptibility of the financial statements to material misstatement, including how fraud might occur, by meeting with management and those charged with governance to understand where it was considered there was susceptibility to fraud. This evaluation also considered how the Manager was remunerated and whether this provided an incentive for fraudulent activity. We considered the overall control environment and how the Manager oversees the implementation and operation of controls. In areas of the financial statements where the risks were considered to be higher, we performed procedures to address each identified risk. We identified a heightened fraud risk in relation to:

- Management override of controls; and
- The completeness and classification of special dividends between revenue and capital.

## Independent Auditor's report to the unitholders of The Acorn Trust (continued)

### Auditor Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements (continued)

#### *Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud (continued)*

In addition to the above, the following procedures were performed to provide reasonable assurance that the financial statements were free of material fraud or error:

- Reviewing the level of and reasoning behind the Trust's procurement of legal and professional services;
- Performing audit work procedures over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business, review of a pre sign-off Net Asset Valuation (NAV) statement for any unexpected activity and reviewing judgements made by the Manager in its calculation of accounting estimates for potential management bias;
- Using a third-party independent data source to assess the completeness of the special dividend population and determining whether special dividends recognised were revenue or capital in nature with reference to the underlying circumstances of the investee companies' dividend payments;
- Assessing the Trust's compliance with the key requirements of the Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook, Investment Funds sourcebook and its Prospectus;
- Completion of appropriate checklists and use of our experience to assess the Trust's compliance with the IA Statement of Recommended Practice for Authorised Funds; and
- Agreement of the financial statement disclosures to supporting documentation.

Our audit procedures were designed to respond to the risk of material misstatements in the financial statements, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures performed and the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it.

#### Use of Our Report

This report is made solely to the Trust's unitholders, as a body, in accordance with Rule 4.5.12 of the COLL Rules published by the Financial Conduct Authority under section 247 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Trust's unitholders those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trust and the Trust's unitholders as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Johnston Carmichael LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Statutory Auditor  
Bishop's Court  
29 Albyn Place  
Aberdeen AB10 1YL  
28 February 2025

## Accounting policies of The Acorn Trust

for the year ended 30 November 2024

### a *Basis of accounting*

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of investments. They have been prepared in accordance with FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland ('FRS 102') and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for UK Authorised Funds ('the SORP') published by The Investment Association in May 2014 and amended in June 2017, and the requirements of the Collective Investment Schemes sourcebook ('COLL') and the Investment Funds sourcebook ('FUND').

The Manager has considered a detailed assessment of the Fund's ability to meet its liabilities as they fall due, including liquidity, declines in global capital markets and investor redemption levels. Based on this assessment, the Fund continues to be open for trading and the Manager is satisfied the Fund has adequate financial resources to continue in operation for at least the next 12 months and accordingly it is appropriate to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.

### b *Valuation of investments*

The purchases and sales of investments are included up to close of business on the last business day of the accounting year.

Purchases and sales of investments are recognised when a legally binding and unconditional right to obtain, or an obligation to deliver an asset arises.

The quoted investments of the Fund have been valued at the global closing bid-market prices excluding any accrued interest in the case of debt securities ruling on the principal markets on which the stocks are quoted on the last business day of the accounting year.

Collective investment schemes are valued at the bid price for dual priced funds and at the single price for single priced funds and are valued at their most recent published price prior to the close of business valuation on 30 November 2024.

Structured products are valued at fair value and calculated by an independent source. Structured product holdings in the portfolio statement are valued using valuation models where the inputs are unobservable. The Manager engages a third party to provide valuations for these investments.

### c *Foreign exchange*

The base currency of the Fund is UK sterling which is taken to be the Fund's functional currency.

All transactions in foreign currencies are converted into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the dates of such transactions. The resulting exchange differences are disclosed in note 2 of the Notes to the financial statements.

Any foreign currency assets and liabilities at the end of the accounting period are translated at the exchange rate prevailing at the balance sheet date.

### d *Revenue*

Revenue is recognised in the Statement of total return on the following basis:

Dividends from quoted equity instruments and non equity shares are recognised as revenue, net of attributable tax credits on the date when the securities are quoted ex-dividend.

Overseas dividends are recognised as revenue gross of any withholding tax and the tax consequences are recognised within the tax expense.

Distributions from collective investment schemes are recognised as revenue on the date the securities are quoted ex-dividend. Equalisation on distributions from collective investment schemes is deducted from the cost of the investment and does not form part of the Fund's distribution.

## Accounting policies of The Acorn Trust (continued)

for the year ended 30 November 2024

### d Revenue (continued)

Excess reportable income from reporting offshore funds is recognised as revenue when the reported distribution rate is available and forms part of the Fund's distribution.

Compensation is treated as either revenue or capital in nature depending on the facts of each particular case.

Special dividends are treated as either revenue or a repayment of capital depending on the facts of each particular case.

Interest on bank deposits and short term deposits is recognised on an accruals basis.

Interest on debt securities is recognised on an accruals basis, taking into account the effective yield on the investment. Accrued interest purchased and sold on interest bearing securities is excluded from the capital cost of these securities and dealt with as part of the revenue of the Fund. The effective yield is a calculation that amortises any discount or premium on the purchase of an investment over its remaining life based on estimated cash flows. The amortised amounts form part of the distributable revenue and are calculated at each month end.

### e Expenses

All expenses, other than those relating to the purchase and sale of investments, are charged to revenue on an accrual basis.

Bank interest paid is charged to revenue.

### f Allocation of revenue and expenses to multiple unit classes

All revenue and expenses which are directly attributable to a particular unit class are allocated to that class. All revenue and expenses which are attributable to the Fund are allocated to the Fund and are normally allocated across the unit classes pro rata to the net asset value of each class on a daily basis.

### g Taxation

Tax payable on profits is recognised as an expense in the period in which profits arise. The tax effects of tax losses available to carry forward are recognised as an asset when it is probable that future taxable profits will be available, against which these losses can be utilised.

UK corporation tax is provided as amounts to be paid/recovered using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted at the balance sheet date.

Deferred taxation is provided in full on timing differences that result in an obligation at 30 November 2024 to pay more or less tax, at a future date, at rates expected to apply when they crystallise based on current rates and tax laws. Timing differences arise from the inclusion of items of income and expenditure in taxation computations in periods different from those in which they are included in the financial statements. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Provision for deferred tax assets are only made to the extent the timing differences are expected to be of future benefit.

All foreign dividend revenue is recognised as a gross amount which includes any withholding tax deducted at source. Where foreign tax is withheld in excess of the applicable treaty rate a tax debtor is recognised to the extent that the overpayment is considered recoverable.

When a disposal of a holding in a non-reporting offshore fund is made, any gain is an offshore income gain and tax will be charged to capital. There may be instances where tax relief is due to revenue for the utilisation of excess management expenses.

## Accounting policies of The Acorn Trust (continued)

for the year ended 30 November 2024

### *h Efficient Portfolio Management*

Where appropriate, certain permitted instruments such as derivatives or forward currency contracts may be used for Efficient Portfolio Management purposes. Where such instruments are used to protect or enhance revenue, the revenue or expenses derived therefrom are included in the Statement of total return as revenue related items and form part of the distribution. Where such instruments are used to protect or enhance capital, the gains and losses derived therefrom are included in the Statement of total return as capital related items.

### *i Distribution policies*

#### *i Basis of distribution*

The distribution policy is to distribute all available revenue after deduction of expenses payable from revenue. Distributions attributable to income units are paid to unitholders. Distributions attributable to accumulation units are re-invested in the Funds on behalf of the unitholders.

#### *ii Unclaimed distributions*

Distributions to unitholders outstanding after 6 years are taken to the capital property of the Fund.

#### *iii Revenue*

All revenue is included in the final distribution with reference to policy d.

#### *iv Expenses*

Expenses incurred against the revenue of the Fund are included in the final distribution, subject to any expense which may be transferred to capital for the purpose of calculating the distribution, with reference to policy e.

#### *v Equalisation*

Group 2 units are units purchased on or after the previous XD date and before the current XD date. Equalisation applies only to group 2 units. Equalisation is the average amount of revenue included in the purchase price of group 2 units and is refunded to holders of these units as a return of capital. Being capital it is not liable to income tax in the hands of the unitholders but must be deducted from the cost of units for capital gains tax purposes. Equalisation per unit is disclosed in the Distribution table.

## Investment Manager's report - Evelyn Partners Investment Management LLP

At the balance sheet date Evelyn Partners Investment Management LLP ('EPIM') managed 60.88% of the funds under management in accordance with the investment objective and policy of the Fund.

### Investment performance\*

During the year, the portfolio managed by EPIM rose by 13.85% on a total return basis having accounted for capital movements whilst the comparative benchmark, ARC Sterling Steady Growth PCI, produced a return of 13.16% over the same period.

### Investment activities

The portfolio has continued to evolve during the year with several changes at stock level whilst the asset allocation has remained broadly similar throughout the year. It remains our opinion that a high quality and well diversified portfolio has been established for the longer term that should meet the investment objective.

### Investment strategy and outlook

The most significant events over recent months have been the UK budget and the US presidential election. Although the UK budget was predicted to be painful, the changes in inheritance tax for pensions, private businesses and agricultural land will lead to readjustments to previously laid out plans. The increases in National Insurance contributions by employers is likely to contract profit margins and possibly leads to higher unemployment. Trump's convincing re-election where he achieved the majority of the common vote as well as the likelihood of controlling Congress, will allow him to pursue the deliverance of his tabled policies. These include reducing immigration, increasing tariffs and rolling back the emphasis on the green initiatives under Bidenomics in pursuit of growth and under the banner of America First. Although the US and UK governments and indeed many of the European states are ideologically opposed, the general policy direction in each case appears inflationary particularly as it involves a stepped increase in government borrowing at a time of exorbitant levels of existing debt.

The bond market has begun to reflect this in anticipation of higher levels of issuance whilst increased longer term bond rates will put pressure not only on the cost of servicing existing debt but also on mortgages and corporate borrowings. This is likely to continue despite the prediction of further interest rate cuts following the recent moves in the UK and US. Although it is likely that rates will come down over the next 12 months, it is becoming more apparent that the extent and speed of these will be less than previously anticipated. This has been compounded by persistently high service inflation. The yield on 10-year government bonds is a vital component for valuing other assets particularly in relation to the relationship between higher levels of risk and anticipated returns. In the event that these yields not only remain elevated but indeed move higher, it could question the valuations attributed to investments carry more risk. This remains an important area to watch.

On a more positive note, recent months have seen a broadening out of equity market returns with the previous concentration on a narrow band of technology companies dissipating in favour of other sectors. This has been evidenced by the outperformance of the US equal weighted S&P 500 Index over its market weighted comparator over the quarter in US dollar terms and this has been helpful in the management of balanced portfolios. We continue to see areas of value within the equity market, particularly in the more economically resilient sectors which are often accompanied by reasonable dividends whilst short-dated bonds provide a useful return with historically low levels of volatility and inflation linked bonds add comfort.

Evelyn Partners Investment Management LLP

6 January 2025

\* Source: Morningstar, 2024.



## Investment Manager's report - Schroder & Co. Limited (trading under the name Cazenove Capital Management)

At the balance sheet date, Schroder & Co. Limited (trading under the name Cazenove Capital Management) ('Cazenove') managed 39.12% of the funds under management in accordance with the investment objective and policy of the Fund.

### Investment performance

Cazenove portfolio of The Acorn Trust = +16.5%<sup>1</sup>

ARC Sterling Steady Growth PCI = +13.2%<sup>2</sup>

### Investment activities<sup>3</sup>

Risk assets have enjoyed a strong twelve-month period, with global equity markets up 25.6%. Equities have been buoyed by the improving fundamental picture as inflation fell closer to central bank targets whilst growth has remained robust especially in the US. Meanwhile the "Magnificent Seven" and other Artificial Intelligence ('AI') related stocks were the strongest performers. US and UK government bonds have also fared well in absolute terms, but not without higher than usual levels of volatility driven by shifting narratives from global central banks and the market's subsequent reaction to interest rate expectations. Elsewhere commodities have exhibited a mixed picture with gold having risen to new all time highs, whilst oil prices have fallen significantly despite ongoing events in Ukraine and the Middle East.

More recently, the main event has been the US presidential election resulting in Donald Trump's victory and Republican control of Congress. This coupled with positive economic indicators, including lower jobless claims and higher consumer confidence, supported the rally in US equities and strength in the US dollar, although Trump's announcement of new tariffs affected sectors like semiconductors and China-focused companies negatively.

The main contributors to performance over the period were the portfolio's equity holdings especially within the US, with active fund holdings JPMorgan Funds - America Equity Fund (+34.5%) and Aravis Funds - Spyglass US Growth Fund UCITS (+63.2%) performing well. Polar Capital Funds - UK Value Opportunities Fund (+23.2%) also had a strong period of performance as small and mid cap UK equities in particular rallied. On the other hand the RWC Funds - RWC Global Emerging Markets Fund (+3.8%) had a more challenging time as its Chinese holdings weighed on returns.

The portfolio's fixed income holdings performed well in absolute terms, although the developed market government bond positions lagged the broader market in aggregate given our relatively shorter duration and bias towards UK gilts. On the other hand the M&G Investment Funds 1 - Japan Fund (+9.0%) was a standout performer, whilst within credit Morgan Stanley Investment Funds - Global Asset Backed Securities Fund (+7.7%) also performed well. Elsewhere Gold (+30.2%) did particularly well spurred by Emerging Market central bank and Chinese retail buying. The broader commodity exposure through L&G Multi-Strategy Enhanced Commodities UCITS ETF (-0.75%) on the other hand fell along with energy prices. Absolute return strategy AQR UCITS Funds - AQR Alternative Trends UCITS Fund (+15.6%) also boosted returns over the period.

### Investment strategy and outlook<sup>3</sup>

The global economy is set to continue to deliver growth in the region of 2.5% - 3% over the next couple of years. While this is broadly in line with 2023 and 2024, the relative stability masks some major shifts at the country level. Stronger growth in the US is offset by weaker growth elsewhere.

Trump's plan to cut taxes and regulation should boost US growth in 2025 and 2026. However, faster growth may add to the inflationary pressure from any potential tariffs and immigration restrictions, which could mean less scope for interest rate cuts.

Economic fundamentals suggest that 2025 should be another positive year for equities and risk assets more broadly. The challenge is that downside risks are greater than before; the prospect of an all-out trade war looms large, the outlook for interest rates is uncertain and government debt continues to rise.

<sup>1</sup> Source: Cazenove Capital Management, Morningstar.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Morningstar.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Refinitiv Datastream

Investment Manager's report - Schroder & Co. Limited  
(trading under the name Cazenove Capital Management) (continued)

Investment strategy and outlook (continued)

Diversification can help mitigate some of these risks. In multi-asset portfolios, bonds should provide some protection against risks to growth, while gold and other commodities help to manage the risk of inflation and elevated geopolitical tensions.

Within equities, the US mega-caps continue to deliver from an earnings perspective. Exposure to the UK, Japan and US small and mid caps should bring diversification and, to an extent, mitigate concentration risk.

Schroder & Co. Limited (trading under the name Cazenove Capital Management)

19 December 2024

## Summary of portfolio changes

for the year ended 30 November 2024

The following represents the major purchases and sales in the year to reflect a clearer picture of the investment activities.

	Cost £
Purchases:	
SPDR S&P 500 UCITS ETF	658,596
Amundi Prime All Country World UCITS ETF	460,010
iShares S&P 500 Swap UCITS ETF	447,383
UK Treasury Gilt 0.125% 30/01/2026	229,270
JPMorgan Funds - America Equity Fund	227,754
UK Treasury Gilt 0.5% 31/01/2029	194,042
UK Treasury Gilt 0.875% 31/07/2033	187,133
Schroder Asian Alpha Plus Fund	178,303
L&G Multi-Strategy Enhanced Commodities UCITS ETF	141,896
Vanguard S&P 500 UCITS ETF	132,007
HSBC Global Funds ICAV - Global Government Bond UCITS ETF	123,396
BlackRock European Dynamic Fund	119,321
Vanguard FTSE Developed Europe ex UK UCITS ETF	117,422
Xtrackers IE Physical Gold GBP Hedged ETC Securities	103,673
VanEck Global Mining UCITS ETF	89,070
Goldman Sachs Group	87,683
IDEX	82,399
UK Treasury Gilt 0.375% 22/10/2026	73,700
Apple	68,822
UK Treasury Gilt Index Linked 0.125% 22/03/2026	68,683

	Proceeds £
Sales:	
Vanguard S&P 500 UCITS ETF	558,271
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds - FTSE All-World Index Fund	329,053
SPDR S&P 500 UCITS ETF	257,197
UK Treasury Gilt 0.125% 31/01/2024	250,000
Findlay Park American Fund	216,867
Schroder International Selection Fund Asian Total Return S Distribution GBP	196,267
Fidelity Investment Funds ICVC - Global Dividend Fund	176,023
UK Treasury Gilt 0.125% 31/01/2028	168,574
Neuberger Berman US Large Cap Value Fund	165,097
UK Treasury Gilt Index Linked 2.5% 17/07/2024	154,524
L&G Multi-Strategy Enhanced Commodities UCITS ETF	154,082
Robeco Capital Growth - BP Global Premium Equities	147,746
Vanguard FTSE Developed Europe ex UK UCITS ETF	123,965
CRH	117,029
Neuberger Berman US Equity Index Putwrite Fund	96,928
RIT Capital Partners ORD	87,399
Honeywell International	84,488
BHP Group	75,120
UK Treasury Gilt Index Linked 1.25% 22/11/2027	74,718
Coremont Investment Fund - Brevan Howard Absolute Return Government Bond Fund	72,924

Portfolio statement  
as at 30 November 2024

	Nominal value or holding	Market value £	% of total net assets
Investment			
Debt Securities* 11.45% (11.59%)			
Aaa to Aa2 0.79% (0.85%)			
Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau 1.375% 09/12/2024	£100,000	99,940	0.79
Aa3 to A1 9.88% (9.89%)			
UK Treasury Gilt 0.125% 30/01/2026	£250,000	239,493	1.90
UK Treasury Gilt Index Linked 0.125% 22/03/2026**	£45,760	68,594	0.54
UK Treasury Gilt 0.375% 22/10/2026	£79,026	73,766	0.59
UK Treasury Gilt Index Linked 1.25% 22/11/2027**	£60,000	124,052	0.98
UK Treasury Gilt 0.5% 31/01/2029	£225,000	195,347	1.55
UK Treasury Gilt Index Linked 0.125% 22/03/2029**	£100,000	162,335	1.29
UK Treasury Gilt 0.875% 31/07/2033	£250,000	190,575	1.51
UK Treasury Gilt 1.125% 31/01/2039	£293,060	191,544	1.52
		1,245,706	9.88
Baa1 to Baa2 0.78% (0.85%)			
Deutsche Telekom International Finance BV 2.5% 10/10/2025	£100,000	97,972	0.78
Total debt securities		1,443,618	11.45
Equities 37.49% (37.63%)			
Equities - United Kingdom 12.26% (15.14%)			
Equities - incorporated in the United Kingdom 10.77% (13.67%)			
Energy 2.48% (3.18%)			
BP	35,000	134,610	1.07
Shell	7,000	177,170	1.41
		311,780	2.48
Materials 1.14% (1.86%)			
Croda International	1,300	44,850	0.36
Rio Tinto	2,000	98,660	0.78
		143,510	1.14
Industrials 0.58% (0.58%)			
BAE Systems	6,000	73,560	0.58
Consumer Discretionary 0.45% (0.55%)			
Whitbread	2,000	57,000	0.45
Consumer Staples 4.04% (4.20%)			
Cranswick	2,750	136,400	1.08
Diageo	4,000	94,080	0.75
Tesco	37,500	137,400	1.09
Unilever	3,000	141,000	1.12
		508,880	4.04

\* Grouped by credit rating - source: Interactive Data and Bloomberg.

\*\* Variable interest security.

## Portfolio statement (continued)

as at 30 November 2024

	Nominal value or holding	Market value £	% of total net assets
Investment			
Equities (continued)			
Equities - United Kingdom (continued)			
Equities - incorporated in the United Kingdom (continued)			
Health Care 1.10% (1.96%)			
AstraZeneca	1,300	<u>137,930</u>	<u>1.10</u>
Financials 0.98% (1.34%)			
London Stock Exchange Group	1,100	<u>123,970</u>	<u>0.98</u>
Total equities - incorporated in the United Kingdom		<u>1,356,630</u>	<u>10.77</u>
Equities - incorporated outwith the United Kingdom 1.49% (1.47%)			
Industrials 1.49% (1.47%)			
CK Hutchison Holdings	9,078	37,172	0.30
Experian	4,000	150,040	1.19
Total equities - incorporated outwith the United Kingdom		<u>187,212</u>	<u>1.49</u>
Total equities - United Kingdom		<u>1,543,842</u>	<u>12.26</u>
Equities - Europe 3.68% (4.82%)			
Equities - France 0.72% (0.58%)			
Schneider Electric	450	<u>91,032</u>	<u>0.72</u>
Equities - Germany 0.50% (0.72%)			
RWE	2,400	<u>63,517</u>	<u>0.50</u>
Equities - Ireland 0.70% (1.33%)			
CRH	1,100	<u>88,682</u>	<u>0.70</u>
Equities - Netherlands 0.20% (0.27%)			
Heineken Holding	500	<u>24,908</u>	<u>0.20</u>
Equities - Switzerland 1.56% (1.92%)			
Nestlé	1,000	68,280	0.54
Novartis	1,550	129,061	1.02
Total equities - Switzerland		<u>197,341</u>	<u>1.56</u>
Total equities - Europe		<u>465,480</u>	<u>3.68</u>

Portfolio statement (continued)  
as at 30 November 2024

Investment	Nominal value or holding	Market value £	% of total net assets
Equities (continued)			
Equities - United States 20.19% (15.46%)			
Abbott Laboratories	700	65,437	0.52
Alphabet 'A'	1,000	132,890	1.05
Amazon.com	1,400	228,981	1.82
American Tower	600	98,720	0.78
American Water Works	700	75,433	0.60
Apple	800	149,376	1.19
Bank of America	4,000	149,577	1.19
Becton Dickinson	500	87,353	0.69
Booking Holdings	35	143,013	1.14
Chevron	1,000	127,422	1.01
Goldman Sachs Group	250	119,828	0.95
IDEX	500	90,756	0.72
Markel Group	80	112,217	0.89
McDonald's	150	34,972	0.28
Microsoft	600	199,890	1.59
Nasdaq	1,600	104,455	0.83
NextEra Energy	1,500	92,900	0.74
Stryker	500	154,262	1.22
Thermo Fisher Scientific	150	62,529	0.50
TJX	1,400	138,629	1.10
UnitedHealth Group	130	62,496	0.50
Zoetis	800	110,416	0.88
Total equities - United States		<u>2,541,552</u>	<u>20.19</u>
Equities - Australia 0.50% (1.28%)			
BHP Group	3,000	<u>62,400</u>	<u>0.50</u>
Equities - China 0.42% (0.51%)			
Haier Smart Home	20,000	<u>53,484</u>	<u>0.42</u>
Equities - Japan 0.44% (0.42%)			
Sony	3,500	<u>55,096</u>	<u>0.44</u>
Total equities		<u>4,721,854</u>	<u>37.49</u>

## Portfolio statement (continued)

as at 30 November 2024

Investment	Nominal value or holding	Market value £	% of total net assets
Closed-Ended Funds - incorporated in the United Kingdom 5.56% (6.65%)			
Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust	3,500	50,890	0.40
Fidelity European Values	30,000	105,150	0.83
JPMorgan Japanese Investment Trust	30,000	167,400	1.33
Polar Capital Technology Trust	65,000	218,075	1.73
Schroder AsiaPacific Fund <sup>^</sup>	30,000	160,200	1.27
Total closed-ended funds - incorporated in the United Kingdom		<u>701,715</u>	<u>5.56</u>
Collective Investment Schemes 39.34% (38.15%)			
UK Authorised Collective Investment Schemes 6.43% (8.12%)			
BlackRock European Dynamic Fund	38,973	109,518	0.87
ES River and Mercantile UK Equity Smaller Companies Fund	16,000	93,979	0.75
Fidelity Institutional Funds - Emerging Markets Fund	49,007	57,534	0.46
M&G Investment Funds 1 - Japan Fund	173,008	252,298	2.00
Ninety One Funds Series III - Global Environment Fund	72,111	116,647	0.93
Schroder Asian Alpha Plus Fund <sup>^</sup>	151,618	178,454	1.42
Total UK authorised collective investment schemes		<u>808,430</u>	<u>6.43</u>
Offshore Collective Investment Schemes 32.91% (30.03%)			
Amundi Prime All Country World UCITS ETF	48,585	446,690	3.55
AQR UCITS Funds - AQR Alternative Trends UCITS Fund	644	81,088	0.64
Aravis Funds - Spyglass US Growth Fund UCITS	3,688	72,446	0.58
ATLAS Global Infrastructure Fund	480	67,327	0.53
Findlay Park American Fund	681	126,914	1.01
HSBC Global Funds ICAV - Global Government Bond UCITS ETF	13,175	123,689	0.98
iShares S&P 500 Swap UCITS ETF	89,863	479,150	3.80
JPMorgan Funds - America Equity Fund	4,836	535,869	4.25
L&G Multi-Strategy Enhanced Commodities UCITS ETF	14,452	144,607	1.15
Amundi US TIPS Government Inflation-Linked Bond UCITS ETF	1,800	191,394	1.52
MAN Funds VI - Man GLG Alpha Select Alternative	491	71,250	0.57
Morgan Stanley Investment Funds - Global Asset Backed Securities Fund	3,900	91,455	0.73
Neuberger Berman Uncorrelated Strategies Fund	14,000	153,160	1.22
Polar Capital Funds - UK Value Opportunities Fund	6,192	83,591	0.66
Prusik Asian Equity Income Fund	900	139,789	1.11
Robeco Capital Growth - BP Global Premium Equities	1,193	152,093	1.21
RWC Funds - RWC Global Emerging Markets Fund	1,159	108,246	0.86
Schroder Special Situations Fund - Diversified Alternative Assets <sup>^</sup>	1,887	168,834	1.34
SPDR S&P 500 UCITS ETF	1,020	484,684	3.85
VanEck Global Mining UCITS ETF	3,246	83,276	0.66

<sup>^</sup> Managed by the Investment Manager, Schroder & Co. Limited (trading under the name Cazenove Capital Management).

## Portfolio statement (continued)

as at 30 November 2024

Investment	Nominal value or holding	Market value £	% of total net assets
Collective Investment Schemes (continued)			
Offshore Collective Investment Schemes (continued)			
Vanguard Investment Series - Vanguard Global Corporate Bond Index Fund	672	70,518	0.56
Vontobel Fund - TwentyFour Absolute Return Credit Fund	485	48,401	0.38
Wellington Global Health Care Equity Fund	15,247	161,175	1.28
William Blair SICAV - US Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	467	59,366	0.47
Total offshore collective investment schemes		<u>4,145,012</u>	<u>32.91</u>
Total collective investment schemes		<u>4,953,442</u>	<u>39.34</u>
Exchange Traded Commodities 2.87% (2.15%)			
WisdomTree Physical Gold - GBP Daily Hedged	5,806	80,050	0.64
Xtrackers IE Physical Gold GBP Hedged ETC Securities	9,000	281,520	2.23
Total exchange traded commodities		<u>361,570</u>	<u>2.87</u>
Structured Products 0.45% (0.45%)			
Citigroup Global Markets Funding Luxembourg SCA 0% 17/08/2029	50,000	56,366	0.45
Portfolio of investments		12,238,565	97.16
Other net assets		357,737	2.84
Total net assets		<u>12,596,302</u>	<u>100.00</u>

All investments are listed on recognised stock exchanges and are approved securities or regulated collective investment schemes within the meaning of the FCA rules unless otherwise stated.

The comparative figures in brackets are as at 30 November 2023.

United Kingdom equities are grouped in accordance with Global Industry Classification Standard ('GICS').

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## Risk and reward profile\*

The risk and reward indicator table demonstrates where the Fund ranks in terms of its potential risk and reward. The higher the rank the greater the potential reward but the greater the risk of losing money. It is based on past data, may change over time and may not be a reliable indication of the future risk profile of the Fund. The shaded area in the table below shows the Fund's ranking on the risk and reward indicator.



The Fund is in a medium category because the price of its investments have risen or fallen to some extent. The category shown is not guaranteed to remain unchanged and may shift over time. Even the lowest category does not mean a risk-free investment.

For full details on risk factors for the Fund, please refer to the Prospectus.

There have been no changes to the risk and reward indicator in the year.

\* As per the KIID published on 4 October 2024.

## Comparative table

The following disclosures give a unitholder an indication of the performance of a unit in the Fund. It also discloses the operating charges and direct transaction costs applied to each unit. Operating charges are those charges incurred in operating the Fund and direct transaction costs are costs incurred when purchasing or selling securities in the portfolio of investments.

	2024	2023	2022
	p	p	p
<b>Net Income</b>			
Change in net assets per unit			
Opening net asset value per unit	1,632.50	1,676.17	1,809.72
Return before operating charges	263.65	0.75	(94.55)
Operating charges	(25.58)	(25.13)	(26.88)
Return after operating charges *	238.07	(24.38)	(121.43)
Distributions <sup>^</sup>	(17.74)	(19.29)	(12.12)
Closing net asset value per unit	1,852.83	1,632.50	1,676.17
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.14	0.08	0.28
<b>Performance</b>			
Return after charges	14.58%	(1.45%)	(6.71%)
<b>Other information</b>			
Closing net asset value (£)	7,061,118	6,375,366	11,160,374
Closing number of units	381,100	390,528	665,828
Operating charges <sup>^^</sup>	1.46%	1.52%	1.57%
Direct transaction costs	0.01%	0.00%	0.02%
<b>Published prices</b>			
Highest offer unit price	1,956	1,795	1,932
Lowest bid unit price	1,669	1,596	1,585

Investments carry risk. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. Investors may not get back the amount invested.

<sup>^</sup> Rounded to 2 decimal places.

<sup>^^</sup> The operating charges are represented by the Ongoing Charges Figure ('OCF'). The OCF consists principally of the Manager's periodic charge and the Investment Manager's fee which are included in the annual management charge, but also includes the costs for other services paid. It is indicative of the charges which may occur in a year as it is calculated on historical data.

The OCF includes expenses incurred by underlying holdings of collective investment schemes and closed ended vehicles such as investment trusts in relation to the Fund (the synthetic 'OCF'). Following guidance issued by the Investment Association on 30 November 2023, the synthetic OCF calculation no longer includes closed ended vehicles.

The Investment Manager's fees excludes any holdings within the portfolio of investments that are managed by the Investment Managers, Evelyn Partners Investment Management LLP and Schroder & Co. Limited (trading under the name Cazenove Capital Management).

During the year only Schroder & Co. Limited (trading under the name Cazenove Capital Management) had in-house holdings within the portfolio of investments.

## Comparative table (continued)

	2024	2023	2022
	p	p	p
<b>Net Accumulation</b>			
Change in net assets per unit			
Opening net asset value per unit	1,747.99	1,773.60	1,901.22
Return before operating charges	282.90	1.20	(99.27)
Operating charges	(27.57)	(26.81)	(28.35)
Return after operating charges *	255.33	(25.61)	(127.62)
Distributions <sup>^</sup>	(19.03)	(20.47)	(12.75)
Retained distributions on accumulation units <sup>^</sup>	19.03	20.47	12.75
Closing net asset value per unit	2,003.32	1,747.99	1,773.60
* after direct transaction costs of:	0.15	0.09	0.29
<b>Performance</b>			
Return after charges	14.61%	(1.44%)	(6.71%)
<b>Other information</b>			
Closing net asset value (£)	5,535,184	4,922,618	958,072
Closing number of units	276,300	281,615	54,019
Operating charges <sup>^^</sup>	1.46%	1.52%	1.57%
Direct transaction costs	0.01%	0.00%	0.02%
<b>Published prices</b>			
Highest offer unit price	2,108	1,900	2,030
Lowest bid unit price	1,787	1,702	1,672

Investments carry risk. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. Investors may not get back the amount invested.

<sup>^</sup> Rounded to 2 decimal places.

<sup>^^</sup> The operating charges are represented by the Ongoing Charges Figure ('OCF'). The OCF consists principally of the Manager's periodic charge and the Investment Manager's fee which are included in the annual management charge, but also includes the costs for other services paid. It is indicative of the charges which may occur in a year as it is calculated on historical data.

The OCF includes expenses incurred by underlying holdings of collective investment schemes and closed ended vehicles such as investment trusts in relation to the Fund (the synthetic 'OCF'). Following guidance issued by the Investment Association on 30 November 2023, the synthetic OCF calculation no longer includes closed ended vehicles.

The Investment Manager's fees excludes any holdings within the portfolio of investments that are managed by the Investment Managers, Evelyn Partners Investment Management LLP and Schroder & Co. Limited (trading under the name Cazenove Capital Management).

During the year only Schroder & Co. Limited (trading under the name Cazenove Capital Management) had in-house holdings within the portfolio of investments.

## Financial statements - The Acorn Trust

### Statement of total return

for the year ended 30 November 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Income:					
Net capital gains / (losses)	2		1,500,925		(308,056)
Revenue	3	281,110		292,054	
Expenses	4	<u>(151,761)</u>		<u>(149,040)</u>	
Net revenue before taxation		129,349		143,014	
Taxation	5	<u>(7,556)</u>		<u>(6,479)</u>	
Net revenue after taxation			<u>121,793</u>		<u>136,535</u>
Total return before distributions			1,622,718		(171,521)
Distributions	6		(121,795)		(136,530)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders from investment activities			<u>1,500,923</u>		<u>(308,051)</u>

### Statement of change in net assets attributable to unitholders

for the year ended 30 November 2024

		2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
Opening net assets attributable to unitholders			11,297,984		12,118,446
Amounts receivable on issue of units		1,009,204		3,989,404	
Amounts payable on cancellation of units		<u>(1,264,322)</u>		<u>(4,559,052)</u>	
			(255,118)		(569,648)
Change in net assets attributable to unitholders from investment activities			1,500,923		(308,051)
Retained distributions on accumulation units			52,513		57,237
Closing net assets attributable to unitholders			<u>12,596,302</u>		<u>11,297,984</u>

Balance sheet  
as at 30 November 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Assets:			
Fixed assets:			
Investments		12,238,565	10,916,330
Current assets:			
Debtors	7	16,027	21,706
Cash and cash equivalents	8	375,910	393,176
Total assets		<u>12,630,502</u>	<u>11,331,212</u>
Liabilities:			
Creditors:			
Distribution payable		(22,462)	(23,650)
Other creditors	9	(11,738)	(9,578)
Total liabilities		<u>(34,200)</u>	<u>(33,228)</u>
Net assets attributable to unitholders		<u><u>12,596,302</u></u>	<u><u>11,297,984</u></u>

Notes to the financial statements  
for the year ended 30 November 2024

1. Accounting policies

The accounting policies are disclosed on pages 12 to 14.

2. Net capital gains / (losses)	2024	2023
	£	£
Non-derivative securities - realised gains	783,090	320,234
Non-derivative securities - movement in unrealised gains / (losses)	712,889	(635,206)
Derivative contracts - realised gains	-	35,630
Derivative contracts - movement in unrealised gains / (losses)	5,495	(29,546)
Currency (losses) / gains	(34)	2,648
Compensation	-	1
Transaction charges	(515)	(1,817)
Total net capital gains / (losses)	<u>1,500,925</u>	<u>(308,056)</u>
3. Revenue	2024	2023
	£	£
UK revenue	75,341	88,587
Unfranked revenue	4,524	2,297
Overseas revenue	132,918	116,694
Interest on debt securities	54,498	62,223
Bank and deposit interest	13,829	22,253
Total revenue	<u>281,110</u>	<u>292,054</u>
4. Expenses	2024	2023
	£	£
Payable to the Manager and associates		
Annual management charge*	179,127	174,609
Annual management charge rebate*	(47,602)	(45,477)
	<u>131,525</u>	<u>129,132</u>
Payable to the Trustee		
Trustee fees	<u>9,002</u>	<u>9,000</u>
Other expenses:		
Audit fee	9,000	7,968
Non-executive directors' fees	1,427	1,680
Safe custody fees	408	459
Bank interest	48	475
FCA fee	131	115
KIID production fee	500	458
Administration fee	(280)	(247)
	<u>11,234</u>	<u>10,908</u>
Total expenses	<u>151,761</u>	<u>149,040</u>

\* The annual management charge is 1.50% and includes the Manager's periodic charge and the Investment Manager's fees. Where the Manager's periodic charge and the Investment Manager's fee are cumulatively lower than the annual management charge a rebate may occur. For the year ended 30 November 2024, the annual management charge after rebates is 1.10%. The annual management charge includes the Manager's periodic charge and the Investment Management fees.

The Investment Manager's fees excludes any holdings within the portfolio of investments that are managed by the Investment Managers, Evelyn Partners Investment Management LLP and Schroder & Co. Limited (trading under the name Cazenove Capital Management).

During the year only Schroder & Co. Limited (trading under the name Cazenove Capital Management) had in-house holdings within the portfolio of investments.

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 30 November 2024

5. Taxation	2024	2023
	£	£
<i>a. Analysis of the tax charge for the year</i>		
Overseas tax withheld	7,556	6,479
Total taxation (note 5b)	<u>7,556</u>	<u>6,479</u>

### *b. Factors affecting the tax charge for the year*

The tax assessed for the year is lower (2023: lower) than the standard rate of UK corporation tax for an authorised collective investment scheme of 20% (2023: 20%). The differences are explained below:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Net revenue before taxation	<u>129,349</u>	<u>143,014</u>
Corporation tax @ 20%	25,870	28,603
Effects of:		
UK revenue	(15,068)	(17,717)
Overseas revenue	(20,168)	(19,803)
Overseas tax withheld	7,556	6,479
Excess management expenses	9,366	8,917
Total taxation (note 5a)	<u>7,556</u>	<u>6,479</u>

### *c. Provision for deferred taxation*

At the year end, a deferred tax asset has not been recognised in respect of timing differences relating to excess management expenses as there is insufficient evidence that the asset will be recovered. The amount of the asset not recognised is £261,054 (2023: £251,688).

## 6. Distributions

The distributions take account of revenue added on the issue of units and revenue deducted on the cancellation of units, and comprise:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Interim income distribution	44,415	54,577
Interim accumulation distribution	34,962	39,045
Final income distribution	22,462	23,650
Final accumulation distribution	17,551	18,192
	<u>119,390</u>	<u>135,464</u>
Equalisation:		
Amounts deducted on cancellation of units	4,384	22,423
Amounts added on issue of units	(1,979)	(21,357)
Total net distributions	<u>121,795</u>	<u>136,530</u>
Reconciliation between net revenue and distributions:		
Net revenue after taxation per Statement of total return	121,793	136,535
Undistributed revenue brought forward	6	1
Undistributed revenue carried forward	(4)	(6)
Distributions	<u>121,795</u>	<u>136,530</u>

Details of the distribution per unit are disclosed in the Distribution table.

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 30 November 2024

7. Debtors	2024	2023
	£	£
Accrued revenue	15,174	17,628
Recoverable overseas withholding tax	588	607
Prepaid expenses	128	114
Recoverable income tax	13	13
	<u>15,903</u>	<u>18,362</u>
Payable from the Manager and associates		
Annual management charge rebate	<u>124</u>	<u>3,344</u>
Total debtors	<u><u>16,027</u></u>	<u><u>21,706</u></u>
8. Cash and cash equivalents	2024	2023
	£	£
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u><u>375,910</u></u>	<u><u>393,176</u></u>
9. Other creditors	2024	2023
	£	£
Accrued expenses:		
Payable to the Manager and associates		
Annual management charge	<u>517</u>	<u>-</u>
Other expenses:		
Trustee fees	25	-
Safe custody fees	481	173
Audit fee	9,000	7,968
Non-executive directors' fees	1,419	1,371
Transaction charges	296	66
	<u>11,221</u>	<u>9,578</u>
Total other creditors	<u><u>11,738</u></u>	<u><u>9,578</u></u>

### 10. Commitments and contingent liabilities

At the balance sheet date there are no commitments or contingent liabilities.



## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 30 November 2024

### 11. Unit classes

The following reflects the change in units in issue in the year:

	Net Income
Opening units in issue	390,528
Total units issued in the year	31,500
Total units cancelled in the year	<u>(40,928)</u>
Closing units in issue	<u>381,100</u>

	Net Accumulation
Opening units in issue	281,615
Total units issued in the year	23,550
Total units cancelled in the year	<u>(28,865)</u>
Closing units in issue	<u>276,300</u>

Further information in respect of the return per unit is disclosed in the Comparative table.

On the winding up of a Fund all the assets of the Fund will be realised and apportioned to the unit classes in relation to the net asset value on the closure date. Unitholders will receive their respective share of the proceeds, net of liabilities and the expenses incurred in the termination in accordance with the FCA regulations. Each unit class has the same rights on winding up.

### 12. Related party transactions

Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited, as Manager is a related party due to its ability to act in respect of the operations of the Fund.

The Manager acts as principal in respect of all transactions of units in the Fund. The aggregate monies received and paid through the creation and cancellation of units are disclosed in the Statement of change in net assets attributable to unitholders of the Fund.

Amounts payable to the Manager and its associates are disclosed in note 4. The amounts due from/to the Manager and its associates at the balance sheet date are disclosed in notes 7 and 9.

### 13. Events after the balance sheet date

Subsequent to the year end, the net asset value per net income unit has increased from 1,853p to 1,884p and the net accumulation unit has increased from 2,003p to 2,037p as at 14 February 2025. This movement takes into account routine transactions but also reflects the market movements of recent months.

### 14. Transaction costs

#### a Direct transaction costs

Direct transaction costs include fees and commissions paid to agents, advisers, brokers and dealers; levies by regulatory agencies and security exchanges; and transfer taxes and duties.

Commission is a charge which is deducted from the proceeds of the sale of securities and added to the cost of the purchase of securities. This charge is a payment to agents, advisers, brokers and dealers in respect of their services in executing the trades.

Tax is payable on the purchase of securities in the United Kingdom. It may be the case that 'other taxes' will be charged on the purchase of securities in countries other than the United Kingdom.

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 30 November 2024

### 14. Transaction costs (continued)

#### a Direct transaction costs (continued)

The total purchases and sales and the related direct transaction costs incurred in these transactions are as follows:

	Purchases before transaction costs		Commission		Taxes		Purchases after transaction costs
	£	£	%	£	%	£	
2024							
Equities	578,234	258	0.04%	316	0.05%	578,808	
Closed-Ended Funds*	103,673	-	-	-	-	103,673	
Bonds*	752,828	-	-	-	-	752,828	
Collective Investment Schemes	2,860,889	144	0.01%	-	-	2,861,033	
Total	4,295,624	402	0.05%	316	0.05%	4,296,342	

	Purchases before transaction costs		Commission		Taxes		Purchases after transaction costs
	£	£	%	£	%	£	
2023							
Equities	317,819	159	0.05%	-	-	317,978	
Closed-Ended Funds*	119,097	-	-	-	-	119,097	
Bonds*	814,689	-	-	-	-	814,689	
Collective Investment Schemes*	1,519,019	-	-	-	-	1,519,019	
Structured Products*	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000	
Total	2,820,624	159	0.05%	-	-	2,820,783	

	Sales before transaction costs		Commission		Taxes		Sales after transaction costs
	£	£	%	£	%	£	
2024							
Equities	761,629	(133)	0.02%	(27)	0.00%	761,469	
Closed-Ended Funds	227,768	-	-	(3)	0.00%	227,765	
Bonds*	670,497	-	-	-	-	670,497	
Collective Investment Schemes	2,876,368	(62)	0.00%	-	-	2,876,306	
Total	4,536,262	(195)	0.02%	(30)	0.00%	4,536,037	

\* No direct transaction costs were incurred in these transactions.

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 30 November 2024

### 14. Transaction costs (continued)

#### a Direct transaction costs (continued)

	Sales before transaction costs	Commission		Taxes		Sales after transaction costs
	£	£	%	£	%	£
2023						
Equities	743,158	(214)	0.02%	(7)	0.00%	742,937
Closed-Ended Funds	187,384	-	-	(4)	0.00%	187,380
Bonds*	76,030	-	-	-	-	76,030
Collective Investment Schemes	1,710,058	(187)	0.01%	-	-	1,709,871
Structured Products*	135,630	-	-	-	-	135,630
Total	2,852,260	(401)	0.03%	(11)	0.00%	2,851,848

Capital events amount of £nil (2023: £178,485) is excluded from the total sales as there were no direct transaction costs charged in these transactions.

#### Summary of direct transaction costs

The following represents the total of each type of transaction cost, expressed as a percentage of the Fund's average net asset value in the year:

2024	£	% of average net asset value
Commission	597	0.01%
Taxes	346	0.00%
2023	£	% of average net asset value
Commission	560	0.00%
Taxes	11	0.00%

#### b Average portfolio dealing spread

The average portfolio dealing spread is calculated as the difference between the bid and offer value of the portfolio as a percentage of the offer value.

The average portfolio dealing spread of the investments at the balance sheet date was 0.10% (2023: 0.05%).

### 15. Risk management policies

In pursuing the Fund's investment objective, as set out in the Prospectus, the following are accepted by the Manager as being the main risks from the Fund's holding of financial instruments, either directly or indirectly through its underlying holdings. These are presented with the Manager's policy for managing these risks. To ensure these risks are consistently and effectively managed these are continually reviewed by the risk committee, a body appointed by the Manager, which sets the risk appetite and ensures continued compliance with the management of all known risks.

\* No direct transaction costs were incurred in these transactions.

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 30 November 2024

### 15. Risk management policies (continued)

#### a Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the value of the Fund's financial instruments will fluctuate as a result of changes in market prices and comprise three elements: other price risk, currency risk, and interest rate risk.

#### (i) Other price risk

The Fund's exposure to price risk comprises mainly of movements in the value of investment positions in the face of price movements.

The elements of the portfolio of investments exposed to this risk are equities, closed-ended funds, collective investment schemes and exchange traded commodities.

This risk is generally regarded as consisting of two elements: stock specific risk and market risk. Through these two factors, the Fund is exposed to price fluctuations, which are monitored by the Manager in pursuance of the investment objective and policy.

Adhering to investment guidelines and avoiding excessive exposure to one particular issuer can limit stock specific risk. Subject to compliance with the investment objective of the Fund, spreading exposure in the portfolio of investments both globally and across sectors or geography can mitigate market risk.

At 30 November 2024, if the price of the investments held by the Fund increased or decreased by 5%, with all other variables remaining constant, then the net assets attributable to unitholders of the Fund would increase or decrease by approximately £536,929 (2023: £477,770).

#### (ii) Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the value of investments or future cash flows will fluctuate as a result of exchange rate movements. Investment in overseas securities or holdings of foreign currency cash will provide direct exposure to currency risk as a consequence of the movement in foreign exchange rates against sterling. Investments in UK securities investing in overseas securities will give rise to indirect exposure to currency risk. These fluctuations can also affect the profitability of some UK companies, and thus their market prices, as sterling's relative strength or weakness can affect export prospects, the value of overseas earnings in sterling terms, and the prices of imports sold in the UK.

Forward currency contracts may be used to manage the portfolio exposure to currency movements.

The foreign currency risk profile of the Fund's financial instruments and cash holdings at the balance sheet date is as follows:

	Financial instruments and cash holdings	Net debtors and creditors	Total net foreign currency exposure
2024	£	£	£
Euro	179,457	252	179,709
Hong Kong dollar	90,656	-	90,656
Japanese yen	55,096	153	55,249
Swiss franc	197,341	-	197,341
US dollar	3,077,421	7,176	3,084,597
Total foreign currency exposure	<u>3,599,971</u>	<u>7,581</u>	<u>3,607,552</u>

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 30 November 2024

### 15. Risk management policies (continued)

#### a Market risk (continued)

#### (ii) Currency risk (continued)

	Financial instruments and cash holdings	Net debtors and creditors	Total net foreign currency exposure
2023	£	£	£
Euro	177,588	607	178,195
Hong Kong dollar	93,088	-	93,088
Japanese yen	47,894	638	48,532
Swiss franc	217,127	-	217,127
US dollar	1,972,362	7,926	1,980,288
Total foreign currency exposure	<u>2,508,059</u>	<u>9,171</u>	<u>2,517,230</u>

At 30 November 2024, if the value of sterling increased or decreased by 5% against all other currencies, with all other variables remaining constant, then the net assets attributable to unitholders of the Fund would increase or decrease by approximately £180,378 (2023: £125,862).

#### (iii) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of the Fund's investments will fluctuate as a result of interest rate changes.

During the year the Fund's direct exposure to interest rates consisted of cash and bank balances and interest bearing securities. The Fund also has indirect exposure to interest rate risk as it invests in bond funds. The amount of revenue receivable from floating rate securities and bank balances or payable on bank overdrafts will be affected by fluctuations in interest rates. The value of interest bearing securities may be affected by changes in the interest rate environment, either globally or locally.

At 30 November 2024, if interest rates increased or decreased by 25 basis points, with all other variables remaining constant, then the net assets attributable to unitholders of the Fund would increase or decrease by approximately £15,913 (2023: £13,316).

The Fund would not in normal market conditions hold significant cash balances and would have limited borrowing capabilities as stipulated in the COLL rules.

Derivative contracts are not used to hedge against the exposure to interest rate risk.

The interest rate risk profile of financial assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date is as follows:

	Variable rate financial assets	Fixed rate financial assets	Non-interest bearing financial assets	Non-interest bearing financial liabilities	Total
2024	£	£	£	£	£
Euro	-	-	179,709	-	179,709
Hong Kong dollar	-	-	90,656	-	90,656
Japanese yen	-	-	55,249	-	55,249
Swiss franc	-	-	197,341	-	197,341
UK sterling	730,891	1,088,637	7,203,422	(34,200)	8,988,750
US dollar	-	-	3,084,597	-	3,084,597
	<u>730,891</u>	<u>1,088,637</u>	<u>10,810,974</u>	<u>(34,200)</u>	<u>12,596,302</u>

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 30 November 2024

### 15. Risk management policies (continued)

#### a Market risk (continued)

##### (iii) Interest rate risk (continued)

	Variable rate financial assets	Fixed rate financial assets	Non-interest bearing financial assets	Non-interest bearing financial liabilities	Total
2023	£	£	£	£	£
Euro	-	-	178,195	-	178,195
Hong Kong dollar	-	-	93,088	-	93,088
Japanese yen	-	-	48,532	-	48,532
Swiss franc	-	-	217,127	-	217,127
UK sterling	886,063	808,707	7,119,212	(33,228)	8,780,754
US dollar	8,459	-	1,971,829	-	1,980,288
	<u>894,522</u>	<u>808,707</u>	<u>9,627,983</u>	<u>(33,228)</u>	<u>11,297,984</u>

#### b Credit risk

This is the risk that one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. This includes counterparty risk and issuer risk.

The Trustee has appointed the custodian to provide custody services for the assets of the Fund. There is a counterparty risk that the custodian could cease to be in a position to provide custody services to the Fund. The Fund's investments (excluding cash) are ring fenced hence the risk is considered to be negligible.

In addition to the interest rate risk, bond investments are exposed to issuer risk which reflects the ability for the bond issuer to meet its obligations to pay interest and return the capital on the redemption date. Change in issuer risk will change the value of the investments and is dealt with further in note 15a. The debt securities held within the portfolio are investment grade bonds. A breakdown is provided in the Portfolio statement. The credit quality of the debt securities is disclosed in the Portfolio statement.

The Fund holds cash and cash deposits with financial institutions which potentially exposes the Fund to counterparty risk. The credit rating of the financial institution is taken into account so as to minimise the risk to the Fund of default.

Holdings in collective investment schemes are subject to direct credit risk. The exposure to pooled investment vehicles is unrated.

#### c Liquidity risk

A significant risk is the cancellation of units which investors may wish to sell and that securities may have to be sold in order to fund such cancellations if insufficient cash is held at the bank to meet this obligation. If there were significant requests for the redemption of units at a time when a large proportion of the portfolio of investments were not easily tradable due to market volumes or market conditions, the ability to fund those redemptions would be impaired and it might be necessary to suspend dealings in units in the Fund.

Investments in smaller companies at times may prove illiquid, as by their nature they tend to have relatively modest traded share capital. Shifts in investor sentiment, or the announcement of new price sensitive information, can provoke significant movement in share prices, and make dealing in any quantity difficult.

The Fund may also invest in securities that are not listed or traded on any stock exchange. In such situations the Fund may not be able to immediately sell such securities.

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 30 November 2024

### 15. Risk management policies (continued)

#### c Liquidity risk (continued)

The equity markets of emerging countries tend to be more volatile than the more developed markets of the world. Standards of disclosure and accounting regimes may not always fully comply with international criteria, and can make it difficult to establish accurate estimates of fundamental value. The dearth of accurate and meaningful information, and inefficiencies in its distribution, can leave emerging markets prone to sudden and unpredictable changes in sentiment. The resultant investment flows can trigger significant volatility in these relatively small and illiquid markets. At the same time, this lack of liquidity, together with low dealing volumes, can restrict the Manager's ability to execute substantial deals.

To reduce liquidity risk the Manager will ensure, in line with the limits stipulated within the COLL rules, a substantial portion of the Fund's assets consist of readily realisable securities. This is monitored on a monthly basis and reported to the Risk Committee together with historical outflows of the Fund.

In addition liquidity is subject to stress testing on an annual basis to assess the ability of the Fund to meet large redemptions, while still being able to adhere to its objective guidelines and the FCA investment borrowing regulations.

All of the financial liabilities are payable on demand.

#### d Fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities

There is no material difference between the value of the financial assets and liabilities, as shown in the balance sheet, and their fair value.

To ensure this, the fair value pricing committee is a body appointed by the Manager to analyse, review and vote on price adjustments/maintenance where no current secondary market exists and/or where there are potential liquidity issues that would affect the disposal of an asset. In addition, the committee may also consider adjustments to the Fund's price should the constituent investments be exposed to closed markets during general market volatility or instability.

	Investment assets	Investment liabilities
Basis of valuation	2024	2024
	£	£
Quoted prices	8,860,646	-
Observable market data	3,321,553	-
Unobservable data*	56,366	-
	<u>12,238,565</u>	<u>-</u>
	Investment assets	Investment liabilities
Basis of valuation	2023	2023
	£	£
Quoted prices	7,063,675	-
Observable market data	3,801,784	-
Unobservable data*	50,871	-
	<u>10,916,330</u>	<u>-</u>

\* Structured product holdings in the portfolio statement are valued using valuation models where the inputs are unobservable. The Manager engages a third party to provide valuations for these investments.

#### Unobservable data

Unobservable data has been used only where relevant observable market data is not available. Where there was no reputable price source for an investment, the Manager has assessed information available from internal and external sources in order to arrive at an estimated fair value. The fair value is established by using measures of value such as the price of recent transactions, earnings multiple and net assets. The Manager of the Fund also makes judgements and estimates based on their knowledge of recent investment performance, historical experience and other the assumptions used are under continuous review by the Manager with particular attention paid to the carrying value of the investments.

## Notes to the financial statements (continued)

for the year ended 30 November 2024

### 15. Risk management policies (continued)

#### e Assets subject to special arrangements arising from their illiquid nature

There are no assets held in the portfolio of investments which are subject to special arrangements arising from their illiquid nature.

#### f Derivatives

The Fund may employ derivatives with the aim of reducing the Fund's risk profile, reducing costs or generating additional capital or revenue, in accordance with Efficient Portfolio Management.

The Manager monitors that any exposure is covered globally to ensure adequate cover is available to meet the Fund's total exposure, taking into account the value of the underlying investments, any reasonably foreseeable market movement, counterparty risk, and the time available to liquidate any positions.

In the year the Fund had exposure to derivatives embedded in structured products and convertible bonds. On a daily basis, exposure is calculated in UK sterling using the commitment approach with netting applied where appropriate. The total global exposure figure is divided by the net asset value of the Fund to calculate the percentage global exposure. Global exposure is a risk mitigation technique that monitors the overall commitment to derivatives in a Fund at any given time and may not exceed 100% of the net asset value of the property of the Fund.

For certain derivative transactions cash margins may be required to be paid to the brokers with whom the trades were executed and settled. These balances are subject to daily reconciliations and are held by the broker in segregated cash accounts that are afforded client money protection.

In the year, the Fund held structured products with embedded derivatives. Exposure created by underlying derivatives is monitored by the Manager as well as the rating of the issuer of the structured product. A third party is used to verify the prices of the structured products.

#### (i) Counterparties

Transactions in securities give rise to exposure to the risk that the counterparties may not be able to fulfil their responsibility by completing their side of the transaction. This risk is mitigated by the Fund using a range of brokers for security transactions, thereby diversifying the risk of exposure to any one broker. In addition the Fund will only transact with brokers who are subject to frequent reviews with whom transaction limits are set.

The Fund may transact in derivative contracts which potentially exposes the Fund to counterparty risk from the counterparty not settling their side of the contract. Transactions involving derivatives are entered into only with investment banks and brokers with appropriate and approved credit rating, which are regularly monitored. Forward currency transactions are only undertaken with the custodians appointed by the Trustee.

At the balance sheet date, there are no securities in the portfolio of investments subject to a repurchase agreement.

#### (ii) Leverage

The leverage is calculated as the exposure generated through the use of derivatives (calculated in accordance with the commitment approach) divided by the net asset value.

As at the balance sheet date, the leverage was 0.45%.

#### (iii) Global exposure

Global exposure is a measure designed to limit the leverage generated by a fund through the use of financial derivative instruments, including derivatives with embedded assets.

At the balance sheet date the global exposure is as follows:

	Gross exposure value	% of the total net asset value
Investment		
Structured Products		
Citigroup Global Markets Funding Luxembourg SCA 0% 17/08/2029	56,366	0.45%

There have been no collateral arrangements in the year.



## Distribution table

for the year ended 30 November 2024

Interim distributions in pence per unit

Group 1 - Units purchased before 1 December 2023

Group 2 - Units purchased 1 December 2023 to 31 May 2024

	Net revenue	Equalisation	Total distributions 30 September 2024	Total distributions 30 September 2023
Net Income				
Group 1	11.844	-	11.844	13.238
Group 2	6.367	5.477	11.844	13.238
Net Accumulation				
Group 1	12.681	-	12.681	14.007
Group 2	11.202	1.479	12.681	14.007

Final distributions in pence per unit

Group 1 - Units purchased before 1 June 2024

Group 2 - Units purchased 1 June 2024 to 30 November 2024

	Net revenue	Equalisation	Total distributions 31 March 2025	Total distributions 31 March 2024
Net Income				
Group 1	5.894	-	5.894	6.056
Group 2	2.835	3.059	5.894	6.056
Net Accumulation				
Group 1	6.352	-	6.352	6.460
Group 2	-	6.352	6.352	6.460

### Equalisation

Equalisation applies only to group 2 units. It is the average amount of revenue included in the purchase price of group 2 units and is refunded to holders of these units as a return of capital. Being capital it is not liable to income tax in the hands of the unitholders but must be deducted from the cost of units for capital gains tax purposes.

### Accumulation distribution

Holders of accumulation units should add the distributions received thereon to the cost of the units for capital gains tax purposes.

## Remuneration

### Remuneration code disclosure

The remuneration committee is responsible for setting the remuneration policy for all partners, directors and employees within Evelyn Partners Group Limited ('the Group'), including individuals designated as Material Risk Takers (MRTs) under the Remuneration Code. The remuneration policy is designed to be compliant with the Code and provides a framework to attract, retain, motivate and reward partners, directors and employees. The overall policy is designed to promote the long-term success of the group and to support prudent risk management, with particular attention to conduct risk.

### Remuneration committee

The remuneration committee report contained in the Group Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 includes details on the remuneration policy. The remuneration committee comprises five non-executive directors<sup>1</sup> and is governed by formal terms of reference, which are reviewed and agreed by the board. The committee met eight times during 2023.

### Remuneration policy

The main principles of the remuneration policy are:

- to align remuneration with the strategy and performance of the business;
- to ensure that remuneration is set at an appropriate and competitive level taking into account market rates and practices;
- to foster and support conduct and behaviours which are in line with our culture and values;
- to maintain a sound risk management framework;
- to ensure that the ratio between fixed and variable remuneration is appropriate and does not encourage excessive risk taking;
- to comply with all relevant regulatory requirements; and
- to align incentive plans with the business strategy and shareholder interests.

The policy is designed to reward partners, directors and employees for delivery of both financial and non-financial objectives which are set in line with company strategy. As part of a "balanced scorecard" approach to variable remuneration non-financial criteria including, but not limited to, compliance and risk issues, client management, supervision, leadership and teamwork are considered alongside financial performance.

### Remuneration systems

The committee reviews all partners' and directors' fixed and variable remuneration. In addition, it approves hurdles and awards in respect of equity incentive plans, namely a Deferred Option Plan, Equity Matching Plan, Matching Share Plan, Executive Long Term Incentive Plan and an Investment Management Long Term Incentive Plan.

The remuneration of partners is made up of a fixed profit share, discretionary bonus profit share and non-discretionary bonus profit share. The remuneration of employees typically comprises of a salary with benefits including pension contribution, life assurance, permanent health insurance, private medical insurance, SAYE scheme and a discretionary bonus scheme. Partners, directors and associate directors are also eligible to participate, at the invitation of the committee, in the equity incentive plans described above.

When setting variable remuneration for the executive directors, the committee considers overall business profit for the group and divisions, achievement of both financial and non-financial objectives (including adherence to the principles of treating customers fairly, conduct risk, compliance and regulatory rules), personal performance and any other relevant policy of the board in respect of the year ended 31 December 2023. The committee agrees the individual allocation of variable remuneration and the proportion of that variable remuneration to be awarded as restricted shares.

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the data provided for the independent non-executive directors is as at 31 December 2023. The data provided is for independent non-executive directors only.

## Remuneration (continued)

### Aggregate quantitative information

The total amount of remuneration paid by Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited ('EPFL') is nil as EPFL has no employees. However, a number of employees have remuneration costs recharged to EPFL and the annualised remuneration for these 72 employees is £3.51 million of which £3.23 million is fixed remuneration. This is based on the salary and benefits for those identified as working in EPFL as at 31 December 2023. Any variable remuneration is awarded for the year ended 31 December 2023. This information excludes any senior management or other Material Risk Takers (MRTs) whose remuneration information is detailed below.

Evelyn Partners Group Limited reviews its MRTs at least annually. These individuals are employed by and provide services to other companies in the Group. It is difficult to apportion remuneration for these individuals in respect of their duties to EPFL. For this reason, the aggregate total remuneration awarded for the year 31 December 2023 for senior management and other MRTs detailed below has not been apportioned.

Table to show the aggregate remuneration split by Senior Management and other MRTs for EPFL	For the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023				
	Fixed £'000	Variable Cash £'000	Variable Equity £'000	Total £'000	No. MRTs
Senior Management	3,518	1,662	-	5,180	18
Other MRTs	919	848	-	1,767	5
Total	4,437	2,510	-	6,947	23

### Investment Managers

The Manager has appointed Evelyn Partners Investment Management LLP ('EPIM') and Schroder & Co. Limited (trading under the name Cazenove Capital Management) ('Cazenove') to provide Investment Management and related advisory services to the Manager. EPIM and Cazenove are paid a monthly fee out of the Annual Management Charge of The Acorn Trust which is calculated on the total value of the portfolio of investments at the month end excluding any holdings within the portfolio that are managed by the Investment Managers. EPIM and Cazenove are compliant with the Capital Requirements Directive regarding remuneration and therefore EPIM and Cazenove staff are covered by remuneration regulatory requirements.

## Further information

### Distributions and reporting dates

Where net revenue is available it will be distributed/allocated semi-annually on 31 March (final) and 30 September (interim). In the event of a distribution, unitholders will receive a tax voucher.

XD dates:	1 December	final
	1 June	interim
Reporting dates:	30 November	annual
	31 May	interim

### Buying and selling units

The property of the Fund is valued at 5pm on the 14th day of the month and the last business day of the month, except where the 14th day of the month is not a business day then it will be the next business day thereafter, and prices of units are calculated as at that time. Unit dealing is on a forward basis i.e. investors can buy and sell units at the next valuation point following receipt of the order.

Prices of units and the estimated yield of the Fund are published on the following website: [www.trustnet.com](http://www.trustnet.com) or may be obtained by calling 0141 222 1151.

### Benchmark

Unitholders may compare the performance of the Fund against the ARC Sterling Steady Growth PCI. Comparison of the Fund's performance against this benchmark will give unitholders an indication of how the Fund is performing against an index based on the real performance numbers delivered to discretionary private clients by participating investment managers.

The benchmark is not a target for the Fund, nor is the Fund constrained by the benchmark.

## Appointments

### Manager and Registered office

Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited

45 Gresham Street

London EC2V 7BG

Telephone 0207 131 4000

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

### Administrator and Registrar

Evelyn Partners Fund Solutions Limited

177 Bothwell Street

Glasgow G2 7ER

Telephone 0141 222 1151 (Registration)

0141 222 1150 (Dealing)

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

### Directors of the Manager

Andrew Baddeley

Brian McLean

Mayank Prakash

Neil Coxhead

### Independent Non-Executive Directors of the Manager

Dean Buckley

Linda Robinson

Victoria Muir

Sally Macdonald

### Non-Executive Directors of the Manager

Guy Swarbreck

### Investment Managers

Evelyn Partners Investment Management LLP

45 Gresham Street

London EC2V 7BG

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Schroder & Co. Limited (trading under the name Cazenove Capital Management)

1 London Wall Place

London EC2Y 5AU

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

### Trustee

NatWest Trustee and Depositary Services Limited

House A, Floor 0

Gogarburn

175 Glasgow Road

Edinburgh EH12 1HQ

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

### Auditor

Johnston Carmichael LLP

Bishop's Court

29 Albyn Place

Aberdeen AB10 1YL