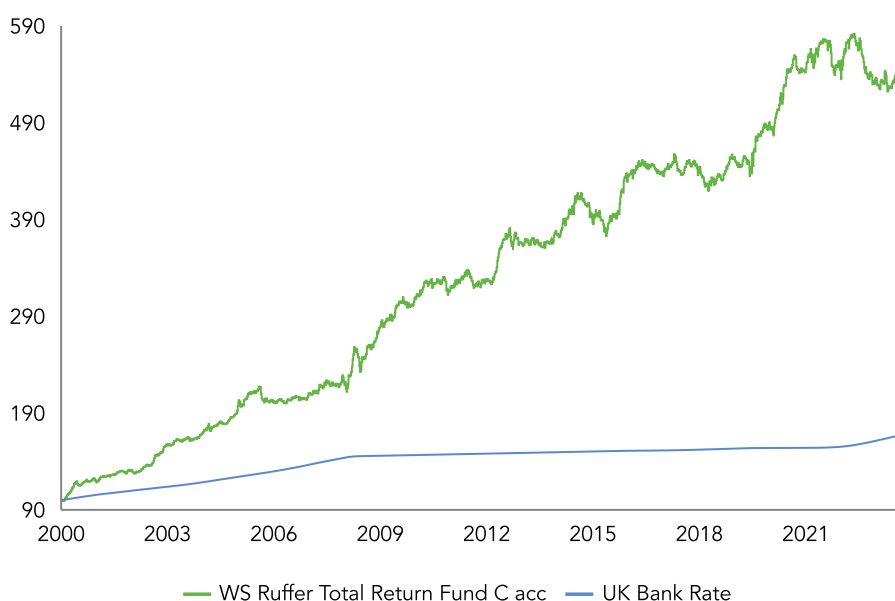


# WS Ruffer Total Return Fund

SHARE PRICE PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2000



April saw the fund make good progress despite a less friendly market backdrop. The expansion of global liquidity that had accompanied the rise in stock markets over the past 18 months may have started to reverse, with US bank reserve balances held at the Fed (a basic but adequate proxy) falling by \$172bn, the largest monthly fall since September 2022. Against this backdrop of marginally tighter liquidity, alongside concerns over persistent inflation, it was unsurprising to see global stock and bond market indices both falling.

Commodities provided shelter from the April showers, with both base and precious metals benefiting from expectations that the US economy might stay stronger for even longer (albeit at the expense of a deteriorating fiscal position). At the same time, the Chinese economy might be bottoming and the geopolitical situation in the Middle East might be deteriorating. This unusual cocktail of 'might be's' saw commodities such as gold and oil, that often move in opposite directions, rising together in the first half of April.

While commodity exposure drove the fund's positive April performance, it was the silver position that we added in March that was the single biggest contributor as it started to catch up with the rise in gold bullion, much as we hoped it might. Beyond silver, it was also a strong month for gold mining stocks and our copper and oil commodity positions. We were trimming them all as the month progressed, fully exiting the oil position as concerns about an escalating conflict between Iran and Israel boosted spot prices, although we have maintained some exposure to oil related equities.

Beyond commodities, the other notable contribution to the fund's performance in April came from short-dated US and UK government bonds. These more than offset losses from the long-dated UK inflation-linked bonds, which continued to be a drag despite long-dated break-evens quietly rising.

On the other side of the ledger, the fund's protective position in the yen (held both via Japanese government bonds and call options on the yen) continued to be a significant detractor from performance, with the aforementioned burst of enthusiasm about the US's economic prospects seeing dollar/yen interest rate differentials again widen in favour of the greenback. The last couple of days in the month seemed to bring Japan's Ministry of Finance (MoF) in to play in defence of the yen, with the MoF selling billions of dollars to discourage speculators from taking the dollar/yen rate quickly beyond the 160 level. It is too early to tell whether the intervention will be a definitive change in momentum.

Current extended market positioning in both US equities and credit is at odds with the geopolitical and economic risks we see all around us. Furthermore, our analysis suggests that liquidity conditions will remain challenged through the coming months, so we are maintaining our defensive posture, using cash and cheap derivative protection to prepare for an environment that will eventually be more friendly to risk-taking.

## C CLASS APRIL 2024

Performance C acc %	GBP
April	1.0
Year to date	-0.2
1 year	-3.8
3 years pa	-0.4
5 years pa	4.4
10 years pa	4.1
Since inception pa	7.4

### Share price, p

C GBP acc	537.51
C GBP inc	324.24
Dividend yield	1.99

	Net	Gross
Duration (years)	2.3	2.5
Equity exposure %	15.0	19.0

C acc GBP	Volatility %	Sharpe	Sortino
3 years	5.5	-0.5	-0.6
5 years	6.4	0.4	0.6
10 years	6.0	0.5	0.8
Since inception	6.9	0.8	1.3

### 12 month performance to 31 March 2024

%	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
RTRF C acc	4.0	20.3	6.1	-0.8	-6.4
UK Bank Rate	0.7	0.1	0.2	2.3	5.0

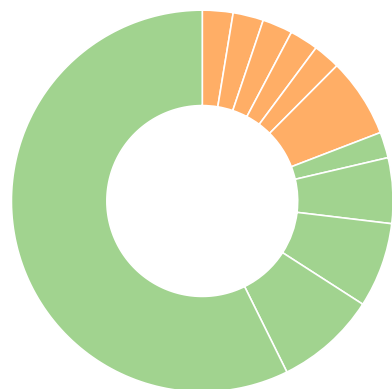
One to twelve month performance figures are cumulative, all others are annualised. Source: Ruffer LLP, Bloomberg. The comparator benchmark shown in this document is as stated in the fund's prospectus. C acc share class performance includes data calculated prior to the inception date, 12 September 2012, based upon a simulated/extended track record using the track record of WS Ruffer Total Return Fund O acc. Ruffer performance is shown after deduction of all fees and management charges, and on the basis of income being reinvested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of the shares and the income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the full amount originally invested. The value of overseas investments will be influenced by the rate of exchange.

## INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

To seek to achieve positive returns in all market conditions over any 12 month period, after all costs and charges have been taken. Underlying this objective is a fundamental philosophy of capital preservation. Capital invested is at risk and there is no guarantee that a positive return will be delivered over any 12 month period.

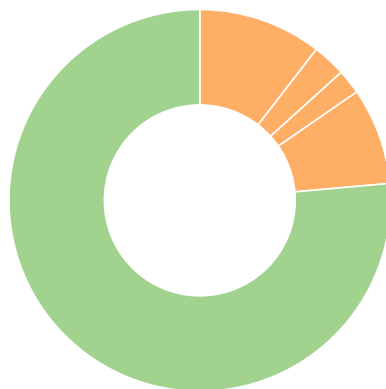
# WS Ruffer Total Return Fund 30 Apr 24

## ASSET ALLOCATION



Asset allocation	%
Short-dated bonds	57.3
Gold and precious metals exposure	8.6
Cash	7.2
Long-dated index-linked gilts	5.6
Non-UK index-linked	2.2
Credit and derivative strategies	-2.1
Healthcare equities	2.6
Energy equities	2.6
Consumer staples equities	2.6
Consumer discretionary equities	2.4
Financials equities	2.3
Other equities	8.8

## CURRENCY ALLOCATION



Currency allocation	%
Sterling	76.4
Yen	10.5
US dollar	2.8
Euro	2.1
Other	8.2

Geographical equity allocation	%
UK equities	8.1
Europe equities	3.8
Asia ex-Japan equities	3.5
North America equities	3.4
Other equities	0.2

## 5 LARGEST EQUITY HOLDINGS

Stock	% of fund
iShares MSCI China A UCITS ETF	2.0
BP ADR	1.0
Alibaba Group	1.0
Pfizer	0.8
Reckitt Benckiser	0.7

Largest equity holdings exclude Ruffer funds | Source: Ruffer LLP | Totals may not equal 100 due to rounding

## RUFFER LLP

Ruffer LLP manages investments on a discretionary basis for private clients, trusts, charities and pension funds. As at 31 March 2024, assets managed by the Ruffer Group exceeded £22.4bn.



FUND SIZE **£2,216.4M**

## FUND INFORMATION

Annual management charge %	1.2	
Maximum initial charge %	5.0	
Minimum investment (or equivalent in other currency)	£1,000	
Ongoing Charges Figure %	1.23	
Cut offs	10am on Wednesday (where it is a business day) and the last business day of the month	
Dealing frequency	Weekly forward, every Wednesday where this is a business day, plus the last business day of the month	
Ex dividend dates	15 Mar, 15 Sep	
Pay dates	15 May, 15 Nov	
Investment adviser	Ruffer LLP	
Depository	The Bank of New York Mellon (International) Limited	
Authorised Corporate Director	Waystone Management (UK) Limited	
Auditors	Ernst & Young LLP	
Structure	Sub-fund of WS Ruffer Investment Funds (OEIC) UK domiciled UCITS Eligible for ISAs	
Share class	ISIN	SEDOL
C GBP acc	GB00B80L7V87	B80L7V8
C GBP inc	GB00B58BQH88	B58BQH8

## ENQUIRIES

Ruffer LLP  
80 Victoria Street  
London SW1E 5JL

rif@ruffer.co.uk  
+44 (0)20 7963 8218  
ruffer.co.uk/rtrf

## DEALING LINE

0345 601 9610

## FUND TEAM



**Steve Russell**  
FUND MANAGER

Graduated from the University of Oxford in PPE and started work as an equity analyst at Confederation Life in 1987, progressing to Head of Equities. In 1999 he moved to HSBC Investment Bank as Head of UK and European Equity Strategy, before joining Ruffer in 2003. He is co-manager of two of Ruffer's flagship funds.



**Matt Smith**  
FUND MANAGER

Joined Ruffer in 2011 after graduating from the University of Edinburgh with a first class honours degree in history and German, and is a fellow of the CISI. He co-manages two of Ruffer's flagship funds.



**Alexander Chartres**  
FUND MANAGER

Joined Ruffer in 2010 after graduating from Newcastle University with a first class honours degree in history and politics. He is a Fellow of the CISI and co-manager of two of Ruffer's flagship funds.

## GLOSSARY

**Volatility** measures the extent to which returns vary over a given period. High volatility means returns have been more variable over time

**Duration** measures the sensitivity of a bond or fixed income portfolio's price to changes in interest rates. The higher the duration, the more sensitive the price or portfolio is to changes in interest rates

**UK Bank Rate** the rate the Bank of England charges banks and financial institutions for loans with a maturity of one day

**Sharpe ratio** measures the performance of an investment, adjusting for the amount of risk taken (compared to risk-free). The higher the ratio, the better the returns compared to the risk taken

**Sortino ratio** measures the extra return an investment makes for each unit of bad risk (the chance of losing money below a certain target)

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The information contained in this document does not constitute investment advice and should not be used as the basis of any investment decision. References to specific securities are included for the purposes of illustration only and should not be construed as a recommendation to buy or sell these securities. Ruffer LLP has not considered the suitability of this fund against any specific investor's needs and/or risk tolerance. If you are in any doubt, please speak to your financial adviser.

The fund data displayed is designed only to provide summary information and the report does not explain the risks involved in investing in the fund. Any decision to invest must be based solely on the information contained in the Prospectus, Key Investor Information Document and the latest report and accounts.

The fund's prospectus and key investor information documents are provided in English and available on request or from [ruffer.co.uk/rtrf](http://ruffer.co.uk/rtrf) WS Ruffer Investment Funds is a UK UCITS. The WS Ruffer Total Return Fund is not registered for distribution in any country other than the UK. In line with the Prospectus, it is possible at any one time the WS Ruffer Total Return Fund may invest more than 35% of its assets in transferable securities issued or guaranteed by an EEA state, one or more local authorities, a third country or a public international body to which one or more EEA States belong. The only aforementioned securities where Ruffer would currently consider holding more than 35% would be UK or US government issued transferable securities.

