

# Ashoka WhiteOak Emerging Markets Trust PLC

www.awemtrust.com

## Investment Objective

To achieve long-term capital appreciation, primarily through investing in equity and equity-related securities that provide exposure to global emerging markets.

## Summary of Investment Policy

The Company shall invest primarily in securities admitted to trading on any stock exchange (which may include stock exchanges in Developed Markets) that provide exposure to companies that are domiciled in Global Emerging Markets (EMs), or that are domiciled in Developed Markets but at the time of investment, derive a majority of their economic value, revenues or profits from, or whose assets or cost base are mainly located in EMs.

## Company Details

Ticker	AWEM
ISIN	GB00BMZR7D19
SEDOL	BMZR7D1
Listing	LSE Main Market
Reference Benchmark	MSCI Emerging Markets NR £, Bloomberg ticker: MGEF Index
Opening NAV	98.26p
NAV <sup>1</sup>	118.18p
Share Price <sup>1</sup>	119.50p
(Discount)/Premium	1.12%
Number of Investments	184
Total Net Assets <sup>1</sup>	£41.55 million
Active Share	76.5%
Launch Date	3 May 2023
Gearing	0%
Dividend	0%
Discount Control	Annual redemption facility at or close to NAV (December year end)
Investment Manager	AIFM (Acorn Asset Management Ltd)
Investment Adviser	White Oak Capital Partners Pte. Ltd. (Singapore)
Corporate Broker	Marex
Firmwide AUM <sup>1</sup>	£6.0 billion
Total number of shares in issuance	33.58mn

## Fees and Charges

Management Fees	0%
Performance Fees	30% of outperformance over the benchmark index (MSCI Emerging Markets NR £, Bloomberg ticker: MGEF Index) over a 3 year period, fee capped at 12%, 100% of fees received in shares, with 50% subject to lock up arrangements

**Ashoka WhiteOak Emerging Markets Trust plc (AWEM) is a UK investment trust seeking to achieve long-term capital appreciation primarily through investing in a multi-cap portfolio of equities that provide exposure to global emerging markets**

Advised by White Oak Capital Partners Pte. Ltd, founded by Prashant Khemka with leading Emerging Markets investment experience

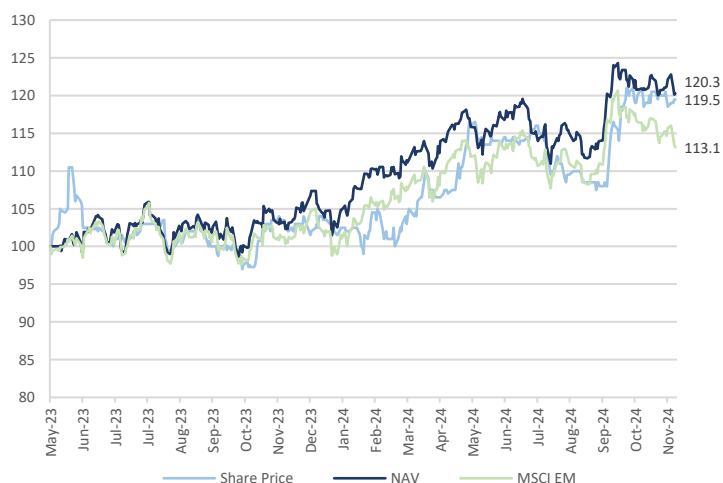
White Oak Capital Group has delivered an exceptional track record for Ashoka India Equity Investment Trust plc as well as other strategies and has £6.0 billion in assets under management or advisory<sup>1</sup>.

Analytical approach integral to disciplined research process underpinned by proprietary frameworks - OpcoFinco™ for valuation and ABLEx™ for ESG research<sup>2</sup>

Emerging markets present potential for higher alpha. EMs remain under-researched and inefficient. AWEM leverages WhiteOak's investment approach to capture the higher alpha potential in these markets

No fixed management fee. Manager remuneration is aligned with alpha generation and hence shareholders' interest. The Investment Adviser is remunerated solely as a function of outperformance over the benchmark.

## Performance since launch (GBP)



Source: Bloomberg, Factset.

Past performance does not predict future returns.

Performance (%)	Nov 2024	YTD Nov 2024	Part 2023	Nov 2023 – Nov 2024	Since IPO*	Since IPO* (annualised)
AWEM NAV (£)	-0.57	12.02	7.37	16.03	20.27	12.39
MSCI EM, NR £	-2.48	7.97	4.77	11.41	13.12	8.11
NAV Outperformance (bps)	+191	+405	+260	+462	+715	+427
Share Price (£)	0.84	17.16	2.00	15.46	19.50	11.93

Source : Bloomberg, Factset. Note: Past performance does not predict future returns. \*Since IPO: 03 May 2023 – 30 November 2024

<sup>1</sup> Data as at 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024. AUM data refers to aggregate assets under management or investment advisory for White Oak Group.

<sup>2</sup> ABLEx: Assessment of Business Longevity and Excellence; More details on OpCo Finco framework and ABLEx framework on Page 5



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Exhibit 1: Top 10 holdings (as at Nov 30, 2024)	Country	% of NAV
1. TSMC	Taiwan	7.1
2. KRN Heat Exchanger And Refrigeration	India	3.6
3. Samsung Electronics	South Korea	2.9
4. Naspers	South Africa	2.3
5. Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing	China/HK	2.1
6. OneSource Specialty Pharma	India	1.9
7. DBS Group Holdings	Singapore	1.7
8. Prosus NV	Netherlands	1.7
9. Alibaba Group Holding	China/HK	1.5
10. SK Hynix	South Korea	1.3
<b>Total</b>		<b>26.1%</b>

Allocations shown above are as of the date indicated and may not be representative of future investments. They may not represent all of the portfolio's investments. Future investments may or may not be profitable.

## Exhibit 2: Key Contributors and Detractors

Nov 2024 Key Contributors	Ending Weight (%)	Total Return (%)	Contribution to Return (bps)	Nov 2024 Key Detractors	Ending Weight (%)	Total Return (%)	Contribution to Return (bps)
KRN Heat Exchanger	3.6	+74.2	+155	Samsung Electronics	2.9	-8.4	-27
DBS Group Holdings	1.7	+10.9	+18	TSMC	7.1	-3.5	-25
Zomato	1.2	+16.4	+13	SK Hynix	1.3	-14.1	-21
Warrior Met Coal	0.8	+12.8	+9	Alibaba Group Hold.	1.5	-10.6	-18
Salik Company PJSC	0.6	+16.5	+9	Nien Made	0.7	-17.0	-15

Source: Factset. Past performance does not predict future returns. The performance calculation is based on GBP. Currency fluctuations will also affect the value of an investment.

Holdings and/or allocations shown above are as of the date indicated and may not be representative of future investments. They may not represent all of the portfolio's investments

## Performance Review

The Company NAV was down 0.57% in November 2024, outperforming the benchmark by 1.91%. The key contributors include KRN Heat Exchanger (+74.2%, a leading manufacturer of heat exchangers in India), DBS Group (+10.9%, Singapore's largest bank with more than 50% of the loan book originating outside Singapore, mainly from Asia), and Zomato (+16.4%, India's leading food delivery aggregator and quick-commerce player), whereas Samsung Electronics (-8.4%, South Korean multinational major appliance and consumer electronics corporation), Alibaba Group Holding (-10.6%, Chinese technology company specializing in e-commerce, retail, cloud technology, and payments), and Nien Made (-17.0%, based in Taiwan it is the second largest window coverings manufacturer in the world) were the key detractors.

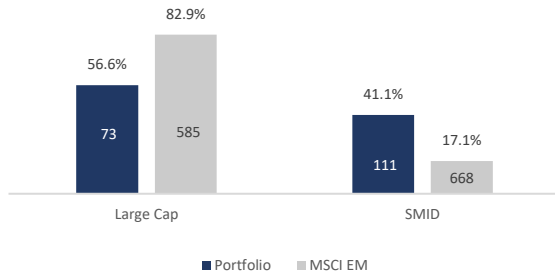
## Market Review

In November 2024, the MSCI EM index was down 2.5%. It underperformed other global indices like the US equities (S&P 500) and MSCI World which returned 7.0% and 5.7%, respectively.

For the month, Communication Services and Industrials outperformed, while Materials and Utilities underperformed. Large caps underperformed mid and small caps this month. Among major EM markets, India and Poland outperformed, while Indonesia and Brazil underperformed.

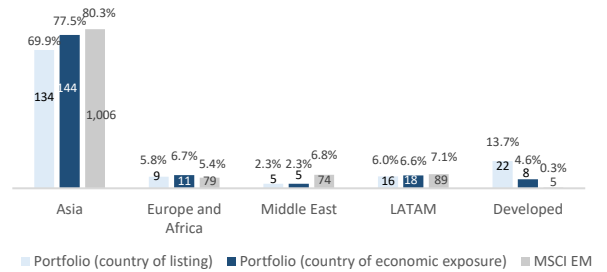
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**Exhibit 3: Market Cap Composition**



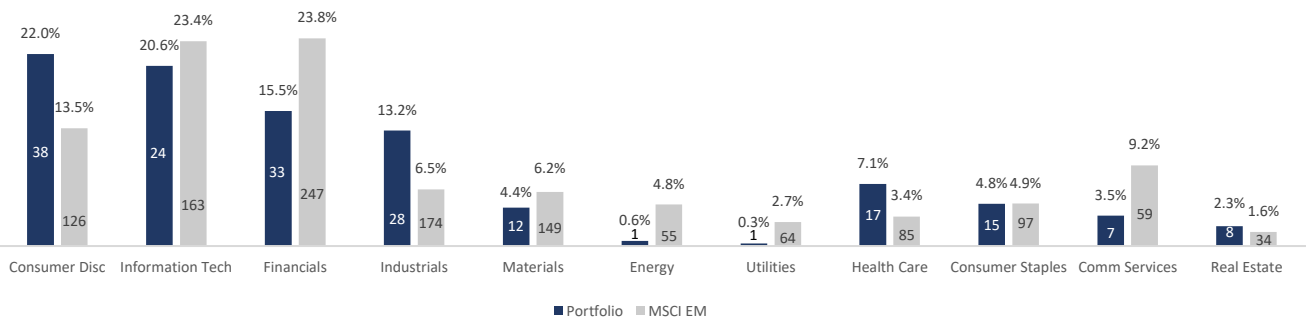
As at Nov 2024; Source: Bloomberg. Allocations shown above are as of the date indicated and may not be representative of future investments. They may not represent all of the portfolio's investments. Future investments may or may not be profitable. Market cap classification as per MSCI.

**Exhibit 4: Regional Composition**



As at Nov 2024; Source: Bloomberg. The numbers inside the bars denote the number of companies in each classification. Allocations shown above are as of the date indicated and may not be representative of future investments. They may not represent all of the portfolio's investments. Future investments may or may not be profitable.

**Exhibit 5: Sector Composition**



As at Nov 2024; Source: Factset, Bloomberg. The numbers inside the bars denote the number of companies in each classification. Allocations shown above are as of the date indicated and may not be representative of future investments. They may not represent all of the portfolio's investments. Future investments may or may not be profitable.



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Exhibit 6: Portfolio Composition: SOE vs Non SOE weights

	Within the MSCI Country Index		Index Composition		AWEM		Active Exposure		
	Weight in MSCI Index	SOE weight	Non SOE weight	SOE	Non-SOE	SOE	Non-SOE	SOE	Non-SOE
China + HK	27%	29%	71%	8%	19%	2%	15%	-6%	-4%
India	20%	11%	89%	2%	18%	0%	30%	-2%	12%
Indonesia	2%	43%	57%	1%	1%	0%	2%	-1%	1%
Korea	10%	4%	96%	0%	9%	0%	7%	0%	-2%
Malaysia	1%	51%	49%	1%	1%	0%	1%	-1%	0%
Taiwan	19%	5%	95%	1%	18%	0%	12%	-1%	-6%
Thailand	1%	33%	67%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	-1%
Others	1%	0%	100%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<b>Asia</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>1%</b>
South Africa	3%	0%	100%	0%	3%	0%	3%	0%	0%
Poland	1%	62%	38%	1%	0%	0%	3%	-1%	2%
Others <sup>1</sup>	2%	11%	89%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	-1%
<b>Europe &amp; Africa</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>1%</b>
Brazil	4%	31%	69%	1%	3%	0%	2%	-1%	-1%
Peru	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Mexico	2%	0%	100%	0%	2%	0%	2%	0%	1%
Others <sup>2</sup>	1%	13%	87%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%
<b>LATAM</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Kuwait	1%	95%	5%	1%	0%	0%	0%	-1%	0%
Qatar	1%	71%	29%	1%	0%	0%	0%	-1%	0%
Saudi Arabia	4%	54%	46%	2%	2%	0%	0%	-2%	-2%
UAE	1%	93%	7%	1%	0%	0%	1%	-1%	1%
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>0%</b>
Developed Markets	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	14%	0%	14%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>98%*</b>	<b>-17%*</b>	<b>17%*</b>

As at Nov 2024; Source: Bloomberg. Allocations shown above are as of the date indicated and may not be representative of future investments. They may not represent all of the portfolio's investments. Future investments may or may not be profitable.

SOE: State Owned Entities; <sup>1</sup> Includes Czech Republic, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, Romania, Turkey; <sup>2</sup> Includes Colombia, Chile; \* Cash and MSCI EM futures included in non-SOEs

Exhibit 7: Portfolio Composition: Country Weights

Weight (%)	Weight in MSCI EM Index	By Country of Listing/Incorporation		By Country of Economic Exposure <sup>1</sup>	
		AWEM	Active weight	AWEM	Active weight
<b>Asia</b>	<b>80.3</b>	<b>69.9</b>	<b>-10.4</b>	<b>77.5</b>	<b>-2.8</b>
China + HK	26.9	16.7	(-10.1)	23.0	(-3.9)
India	19.9	30.2	10.2	30.2	10.2
Taiwan	18.8	12.3	(-6.5)	13.6	(-5.1)
South Korea	9.7	7.4	-2.3	7.4	-2.3
Indonesia	1.5	1.9	0.3	1.9	0.3
Thailand	1.5	0.0	-1.5	0.0	-1.5
Malaysia	1.5	1.0	-0.5	1.0	-0.5
Others	0.5	0.4	-0.2	0.4	-0.2
<b>Europe and Africa</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Poland	0.8	2.8	2.0	3.0	2.2
South Africa	3.0	2.6	-0.4	2.6	-0.4
Others	1.6	0.5	-1.1	1.2	-0.4
<b>Middle East</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>-4.5</b>
Saudi Arabia	4.0	0.6	-3.4	0.6	-3.4
UAE	1.3	1.7	0.5	1.7	0.5
Qatar	0.8	0.0	-0.8	0.0	-0.8
Kuwait	0.7	0.0	-0.7	0.0	-0.7
<b>LATAM</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
Brazil	4.5	1.7	-2.8	1.9	-2.6
Mexico	1.8	2.4	0.6	2.4	0.6
Peru	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.0
Others	0.5	1.5	1.0	2.0	1.5
<b>Developed Markets</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>13.7</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Netherlands ( <i>Prosus, ASM, ASML</i> )	0.0	2.8	2.8	0.0	0.0
France ( <i>Hermes, LVMH</i> )	0.0	2.1	2.1	0.0	0.0
Japan ( <i>Disco</i> )	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Singapore ( <i>DBS Group, OCBC</i> )	0.0	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4
Others ( <i>Erste, Moncler, CIE, Atlas, HSBC, IFX, JMT, HCC, LUN, VTEX, INCH, WPM, STM, FNV</i> )	0.3	6.2	5.9	2.2	2.0

As at Nov 2024; Source: WhiteOak, Bloomberg.

<sup>1</sup> Country from where the largest business value is derived. Allocations shown above are as of the date indicated and may not be representative of future investments. The holdings and/or allocations shown may not represent all of the portfolio's investments. Future investments may or may not be profitable.

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## Exhibit 8: Portfolio Characteristics

	AWEM	MSCI EM
Number of Holdings	184	1,253
Weighted Avg Market Cap	\$ 100bn	\$ 157bn
CY23 ROE	14.2%	13.8%
CY24 P/E	18.8x <sup>3</sup>	12.1x <sup>1</sup>
CY25 P/E	16.8x <sup>3</sup>	10.8x <sup>1</sup>
CY24 OpcoFinco™ P/FCF	21.7x <sup>3</sup>	19.8x <sup>2</sup>
CY25 OpcoFinco™ P/FCF	19.3x <sup>3</sup>	18.4x <sup>2</sup>
Projected Revenue 3 year cagr	16.3% <sup>3</sup>	4.6% <sup>1</sup>
Projected Earnings 3 year cagr	18.5% <sup>3</sup>	13.6% <sup>1</sup>

Source: WhiteOak, Bloomberg, Factset, MSCI

<sup>1</sup> As per estimates from Bloomberg and Factset (Consensus)

<sup>2</sup> As per WhiteOak and Consensus estimates, for top 500 companies in MSCI EM by weight

<sup>3</sup> As per WhiteOak estimates

The scenarios presented are an estimate of future financial performance of the holdings based on evidence from current market conditions reflecting the nature and risk of the specified type of investment holdings and are not an exact indicator. Forecasts are not a reliable indicator of future performance.

## Exhibit 9: Opco Finco™ framework

Our investment philosophy is that outsized returns are earned over time by investing in great businesses at attractive valuations. A great business is one that generates superior returns on capital, is scalable, and is well-managed both in terms of execution and governance.

The team strives to buy these businesses when they are available at a substantial discount to their intrinsic value. We do not look at the commonly used accounting-based metrics like P/E or EV to EBITDA, as they can be distorted and misleading. Instead, we rely on DCF and excess ROIC multiple derived from our proprietary OpcoFinco™ framework.

The OpcoFinco™ framework is an adapted version of the DCF that is aligned with our investment philosophy. The framework assesses the economic cash flows generated by the business in excess of the cost of capital. This approach dissects the value of any company between two components:

- Value of the invested capital in the business
- Value of the excess returns on invested capital

Such distinction into components of value is very insightful in understanding the sources of value in a business. Crucially, the excess ROIC multiples are useful in comparing businesses within a sector, as well as across sectors in an apples-to-apples comparison rather than an apples-to-oranges comparison as provided by P/E or EV/EBITDA multiples.

## Exhibit 10: ABLEx™ framework

We use our proprietary ESG risk assessment framework ABLEx™ (Assessment of Business Longevity and Excellence) to assess companies on their ESG practices. The framework contains a sector-specific list of ESG risk and opportunities against which a company's practices, policies and disclosures are assessed. The results from our ESG analysis are used in our valuation assumptions.

The ABLEx score, which is a reflection of the ESG practices of a company, is used as an input into the terminal value ascribed to terminal year cashflows of a company along with other fundamental factors (such as superior return on capital, scalability, quality of management teams) driving the terminal multiple. All else equal, a company with a higher ESG score would be awarded a relatively higher terminal multiple. This is a subjective exercise that the team does and there is no set numerical formula or weight assigned to each of the factors.

Further details of White Oak's ESG integration can be found at [Link](#)

The above two exhibits are for illustrative purposes only; Source: WhiteOak

For more details on our portfolio construction process, please refer to the previous Factsheets in the 'Factsheet Documents' section of the website: [Link](#)



## Ashoka WhiteOak Emerging Markets Trust PLC

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### Important Information

This document has been issued for information purposes only. It does not contain any advice, investment recommendations or any offer, invitation or inducement to invest in the Company. Investors should seek advice from an authorised financial adviser prior to making investment decisions.

Capital may be at risk as the value of investments may go down as well as up and is not guaranteed; therefore investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Past performance is not a guide to future performance, nor a reliable indicator of future results or performance.

The cost of investment may increase or decrease as a result of currency and exchange rate fluctuations. Currency fluctuations will also affect the value of an investment. Investments in shares of smaller companies are generally considered to carry a higher degree of risk as the market for their shares may be less liquid than that for shares of larger companies, making shares of smaller companies more difficult to buy and sell.

The performance of shares of smaller companies may be more volatile than the shares of larger companies over short time periods; therefore investors should regard such investments as long term. There can be no guarantee that the investment objective of the Company will be achieved or provide the returns sought by the Company.

An investment in the Company is only suitable for investors who are capable of evaluating the merits and risks of such an investment and who have sufficient resources to be able to bear any losses which may arise from such an investment (which may be equal to the whole amount invested). Such an investment should be regarded as long term in nature and complementary to existing investments in a range of other financial assets and should not form a major part of an investment portfolio.

The Company is a public limited company and an investment trust, the shares of which are traded on the main market of the London Stock Exchange. Accordingly, the ability of shareholders to sell their shares will be dependent on the market price of the shares. The shares may trade at a discount or premium to their net asset value. The Company may borrow money in order to make further investments. This is known as gearing. The effect of gearing can enhance returns to shareholders in rising markets but will have the opposite effect on returns in falling markets.

Economic and market forecasts presented herein reflect a series of assumptions and judgments as of the date of this presentation and are subject to change without notice. Emerging markets securities may be less liquid and more volatile and are subject to a number of additional risks, including but not limited to currency fluctuations and political instability.

None of White Oak Capital Partners Pte. Ltd., Acorn Asset Management Ltd or the Company, nor any of their respective directors, partners, employees, agents or representatives, shall be liable for any damages whether direct or indirect, incidental, special or consequential including lost capital, lost revenue or lost profits that may arise from or in connection with the use of this information.

Views and opinions expressed are for informational purposes only and do not constitute a recommendation by WhiteOak to buy, sell, or hold any security. Views and opinions are current as of the date of this material and may be subject to change, they should not be construed as investment advice.

This is an actively managed portfolio that is not designed to track its reference benchmark. Therefore, the performance of the portfolio and the performance of its reference benchmark may diverge. In addition, stated reference benchmark returns do not reflect any management or other charges to the portfolio, whereas stated returns of the portfolio do.

References to indices, benchmarks or other measures of relative market performance over a specified period of time are provided for your information only and do not imply that the portfolio will achieve similar results. The index composition may not reflect the manner in which the Company's portfolio is constructed.

The investment manager does not provide legal, tax or accounting advice to its clients. All investors are strongly urged to consult with their legal, tax, or accounting advisors regarding any potential transactions or investments. There is no assurance that the tax status or treatment of a proposed transaction or investment will continue in the future. Tax treatment or status may be changed by law or government action in the future or on a retroactive basis.

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