



Baillie Gifford UK Growth Trust

Investment companies | Annual overview | 27 August 2025

Significant catch up potential

After three challenging years, there are now signs that sentiment towards both **growth** stocks and the wider UK market is improving. Baillie Gifford UK Growth Trust (BGUK) has been a clear beneficiary of this, delivering a marked uptick in performance over the past year. The tide may be turning, but UK equities in general – and growth names in particular – remain deeply out of favour versus their global peers. This leaves significant catch-up potential if conditions continue to improve, particularly as its managers still observe that, in aggregate, its companies are performing well at the operational level.

While the path to any recovery is rarely a straight line, shareholders can take comfort from BGUK's new single-digit **discount** control policy, which has already had a tangible impact, and from the fact that there are multiple safeguards in place – including an additional continuation vote (a shareholder vote on whether an investment trust should continue in its present form) in 2027 (as well as the regular five-yearly continuation vote in 2029) and a performance-linked **tender offer** in 2029 should the trust's **NAV** per share lag the FTSE All-Share over the five years to 30 April 2029.

Focused portfolio of UK growth equities

BGUK aims to achieve capital growth by investing in a concentrated portfolio (35–65 companies) of predominantly UK equities, with the aim of providing a total return in excess of the FTSE All-Share Index.

Sector	UK all companies
Ticker	BGUK LN
Base currency	GBP
Price	204.0p
NAV	228.2p
Premium/(discount)	(10.6%)
Yield ¹	2.8%

Note: 1) Dividend yield is based on BGUK's dividend of 5.7p per share for the 2025 financial year.



The board and the managers have demonstrated a clear prioritising of shareholder interests



Baillie Gifford has a strong emphasis on using a team-based approach



Baillie Gifford's approach is characterised by a particularly strong emphasis on growth





Contents

Fund profile	4
Managers' view	4
Investment approach	6
Asset allocation	8
Portfolio characteristics	9
Portfolio activity	10
Top 10 holdings	11
Performance	13
Results for the year ended 30 April 2025	14
Peer group	18
Dividend	21
Premium/(discount)	22
Structure	24
Fees and costs	24
Capital structure and life	24
Management team	26
Board	26
SWOT analysis	28
Bull vs bear case	29
Previous publications	30

Domicile	England & Wales
Inception date	8 July 2005
Managers	Iain McCombie and Milena Mileva
Market cap	251.8m
Shares outstanding (exc. treasury shares)	123,422,184
Daily vol. (1-yr. avg.)	337.1k shares
Net gearing	7%

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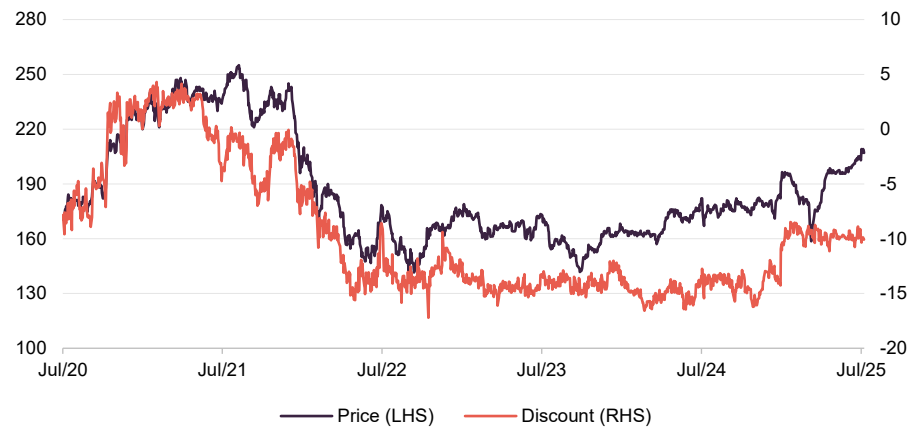


At a glance

Share price and discount

As at 22 August 2025, BGUK was trading at a share price discount to net asset value (NAV) of 10.6%, which is narrower than its one- and three-year averages of 11.7% and 13.3% respectively. It is also broadly in line with its five-year average of 9.5% and narrower than the average discount since the new discount control policy was put in place with effect from 28 January 2025. The discount range since the new policy was introduced is between 8.5% to 11.1% and it is clear that the discount has been less volatile since the introduction of the policy.

Time period 31 July 2020 to 25 August 2025

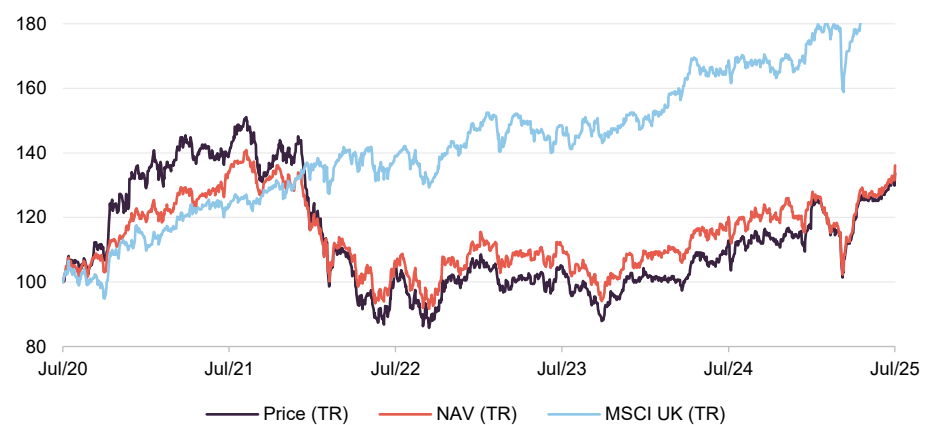


Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

Performance over five years

It was the impact of higher interest rates in 2022 that had the greatest impact on growth stocks and hence BGUK's NAV and share price performance relative to the MSCI UK index. While this has stabilised since, as inflation was brought under control and interest rates receded, there remains considerable catch-up potential.

Time period 31 July 2020 to 31 July 2025



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

12 months ended	Share price TR (%)	NAV total return (%)	MSCI UK TR (%)	MSCI UK Growth TR (%)	MSCI World TR (%)
31/07/2021	39.8	33.8	23.4	18.7	28.1
31/07/2022	(24.4)	(20.4)	12.8	5.2	4.3
31/07/2023	(0.7)	4.4	6.8	5.6	7.9
31/07/2024	7.5	8.1	13.5	7.8	19.1
31/07/2025	18.5	13.2	12.7	8.8	12.8

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

Fund profile

Focused UK growth equities portfolio

Further information can be found at Baillie Gifford's website:

www.bailliegifford.com

BGUK aims to achieve capital growth predominantly by investing in a portfolio of UK equities, with the aim of providing a total return (the combination of capital growth and income) in excess of the FTSE All-Share Index. The company invests in a relatively concentrated portfolio of between 35 and 65 companies, the majority of which are constituents of the FTSE 350 Index, but where appropriate, it may also include constituents of other indices.

Baillie Gifford took over the management of BGUK's portfolio at the end of June 2018 and has been managing it for just over six years now. The managers take a stock-picking approach, and the size of individual stock holdings depends on the managers' degree of conviction, not the stock's weight in any index. BGUK may, if appropriate, use convertible securities (bonds or preferred shares that can be converted into a predetermined number of ordinary shares), and equity-related **derivatives** for efficient portfolio management purposes. BGUK may also invest up to 10% of its total assets in unlisted investment opportunities (measured at the time of initial investment).

About the managers

Well-resourced investment team.

Baillie Gifford has 175 investors/analysts, spread across 23 teams, most of whom are based in its Edinburgh office. It is structured as a partnership and encourages a collegiate approach to managing money, although it allows its portfolio managers the freedom to have the final say about their portfolios. It managed or advised on about £209bn of assets under management at 30 June 2025, of which £9.6bn was invested in UK equities.

BGUK is co-managed by Iain McCombie and Milena Mileva (see page 27 for brief biographies of the managers).

Constructed without reference to a benchmark

BGUK's **benchmark** is the FTSE All-Share Index, although the portfolio is not constructed with reference to this or any other benchmark index. We have substituted the MSCI UK Index for the All-Share in this report and have also included comparisons against the MSCI UK Growth Index and the MSCI World Index.

Managers' view

Sentiment towards growth stocks and the UK market continues to improve

Interest rate cuts are still coming through.

When we last published on BGUK in August 2024, signs were emerging that the tide was turning for UK growth stocks. After a difficult period driven by rising **interest rates** and compressed valuations, **inflation** was showing signs of coming under control. The Bank of England had just delivered its first rate cut and the expectation was that there would be more to come, which has since been fulfilled.

Mid- and small-cap stocks still being left behind

BGUK's managers note that whilst the geopolitical landscape remains unsettled – particularly following the change in US administration and the erratic implementation of Trump's so-called "Liberation Day" tariffs – there have been no major surprises since we last wrote on the trust. Operational performance across the portfolio remains robust in aggregate. Moreover, with US tariffs feeding inflation and dampening growth prospects domestically, global capital has started to shift towards other developed markets, including Europe and the UK. Despite this, UK equities – and UK growth stocks in particular – continue to trade at a significant discount relative to both historical levels and global peers.

We have also previously discussed how the trust's bias towards mid- and small-cap stocks has been a performance headwind. In the recent upswing, larger UK stocks appear to have benefitted disproportionately and the managers believe that whilst UK stocks continue to look cheap across the market cap spectrum, some of the strongest potential remains with the mid- and small-cap stocks that BGUK has exposure to.

Managers remain confident in the long-term merits of their approach

BGUK's managers reiterates that, whilst it has become more valuation-aware, there has been no fundamental change to the approach used to manage the trust's portfolio. Baillie Gifford previously reviewed the trust's performance to assess whether materially better outcomes could have been achieved within its mandate in the period since it peaked in August 2021 (something we looked at in detail in our last note). The conclusion was clear: without deviating from the trust's growth-focused remit – for example, by adding large-cap index names – a materially different result would not have been possible.

A year on, and BGUK's managers continue to see no reason to shift from BGUK's established philosophy and remain confident in the long-term merits of the style. They maintain strong conviction in the portfolio and argue that markets continue to misprice quality. BGUK's managers think, and we agree, that for investors with a longer time horizon, this represents a compelling opportunity.

Managers' long-running themes remain intact

As we have discussed previously, BGUK's managers are resolutely bottom up in their approach to selecting stocks (focusing on individual company fundamentals rather than broader macroeconomic trends), but as discussed further in the next section, they are looking for companies that have a number of key attributes. As a result, when looking across the portfolio, it is possible to group BGUK's holdings into broad themes that the managers are excited about. Regular readers of our research on BGUK may observe that these broad "buckets" are unchanged, with the exceptions of BGUK's small exposure to commodities.

Key portfolio areas are as follows:

- Growth financials – Legal & General, AJ Bell, St James's Place, Helical, Wise, Prudential, Lancashire Holdings, Just Group, and IntegraFin.
- Market share gainers – Ashtead, Bunzl, 4imprint, Inchcape, Volution Group, and Howden Joinery.
- Big brands – Games Workshop, Diageo, and Burberry.

- R&D innovators – Genus, Wayve, Oxford Nanopore, Creo Medical, and Renishaw.
- The digital enterprise – Kainos, FDM, Softcat, Molten Ventures, and FD Technologies.
- The digital consumer – Rightmove, Moonpig, and Auto Trader.
- Niche industrials – Bodycote, Halma, and PageGroup.
- Data, data everywhere – RELX and Experian.

Investment approach

Markets are inefficient at pricing long-term growth

The underlying approach

Baillie Gifford believes that markets are inefficient at pricing long-term growth, especially over a time horizon of at least five years, and that this creates an opportunity to generate alpha (returns above a benchmark or market average). For this reason, it aims to encourage a culture of long-term thinking within the firm. Baillie Gifford believes that there is persistence of good company management, business models and stock prices. This translates into a culture of “sticking with the winners”.

Three-stage team-based approach

As an investment house, Baillie Gifford has a strong emphasis on using a team-based approach, as it believes that teams make better decisions than individuals. Integral to this is a culture of debate, with a challenge-driven mentality across the firm. Baillie Gifford could be considered as effectively being made up of a small number of investment teams with different growth strategies. The UK equities team uses a consistent three-stage approach that comprises:

- discovery;
- debate; and
- decision.

There are two lead portfolio managers on the team: Iain McCombie (the head of the team) and Milena Mileva. The team also has two permanent investment analysts as well as a number of graduates from the company's graduate programme (these rotate every 12 months). In addition, dedicated ESG analysts are embedded within the UK team's investment framework.

Stage 1 – Discovery

This is the idea-generation part of the process. Every six weeks the team has its prospects meeting, which sets the research agenda for the following six weeks (the UK stock universe is 500+ stocks and the team has a priority list of around 200 companies). Baillie Gifford holds the view that it is important for both portfolio managers and analysts to carve out time to do their own research. This is part of their objectives and helps to keep them accountable for their investment decisions (as discussed below, although there is considerable debate around stocks, the lead portfolio managers make the final decision).

For the prospect meeting, team members bring along “half-formed” ideas to discuss (an analyst or portfolio manager may have seen something that has caught their eye and open it up to the wider group). The discussion is open-minded and constructive. Baillie Gifford does not believe in coverage for the sake of having coverage. For example, even if a stock is large, the team will not cover it unless it has a credible long-term growth investment case. That is not to say that the team does not keep an eye on the broader market; they will look at such stocks when looking at the competitive landscape, for example. These discussions are the starting point for more in-depth research.

In the discovery stage, the team can draw on external research providers and other in-house teams, but Baillie Gifford tries to encourage analysts to hunt for new ideas. They are encouraged to follow their enthusiasms and look at things they are drawn to and are excited about. This frees up the analysts, who are all generalists, allowing them to get a broader perspective. It is noteworthy that the analysts are not divided along sector lines and there is no concept of “maintenance research” (ongoing or routine coverage of stocks is not required unless there is an active investment case) at Baillie Gifford. When the team is talking to companies, the conversations with their management teams focus on the long-term prospects of the business.

Iain and Milena are able to draw on the resources of the whole investment team when analysing companies, and can sit in on meetings with companies outside their geographic remit. This is especially beneficial when trying to identify how companies compare with competitors domiciled in other markets.

Stage 2 – Debate

The debate stage is the most important stage of the investment process. It is structured around a concise investment note which, for the UK equities team, is limited to a maximum of three pages, to keep the arguments focused with a clear recommendation at the end (there is, however, no limit on the number of supporting pages that can be attached to the back of the note). Notes are structured around Baillie Gifford’s five-question framework:

- **Edge – why is a stock interesting?** This focuses on the industry background, company-specific factors, competitive position, and key issues pertinent to the investment case.
- **Growth – what will it look like in five years?** This focuses on sales, profit margins and the capital allocation.
- **Sustainability – what, if any, ESG factors are material to the investment case? Consider both opportunities and risks.** This focuses on climate impact, sustainable business practices, board structures, and management alignment.
- **Valuation – should we own it?** This focuses on the company’s valuation, the reasons why a company should trade well, and the likely valuation in five years and beyond.
- **Discipline – what would make us sell?** This focuses on the key risks and any non-negotiables of the investment case.

In addition, another member of the team will be appointed to play the role of devil’s advocate ahead of the discussion. The purpose of this is to uncover assumptions and challenge these so that ultimately a superior recommendation can be reached.

One member of the team takes detailed minutes of these discussions, which provide an anchor for the team for future discussions. Specifically, these minutes record the risks identified around a stock, as well as the reasons for selling. This is important, as it acts as a barrier against analysts' and portfolio managers' shifting the goalposts on stocks over time, forcing them to retain their objectivity.

Stage 3 – Decision

In terms of portfolio construction, whilst the team actively discusses all of the stocks, the final decision as to what enters the portfolio is down to the lead managers of the BGUK portfolio. This is designed to give individual accountability on top of the team discussion.

Sell discipline

In terms of sales, loss of faith in a company's management is an instant trigger for a sale. The managers also sell if they feel that a business model is not working, or if the market has caught up with their expectations for a company.

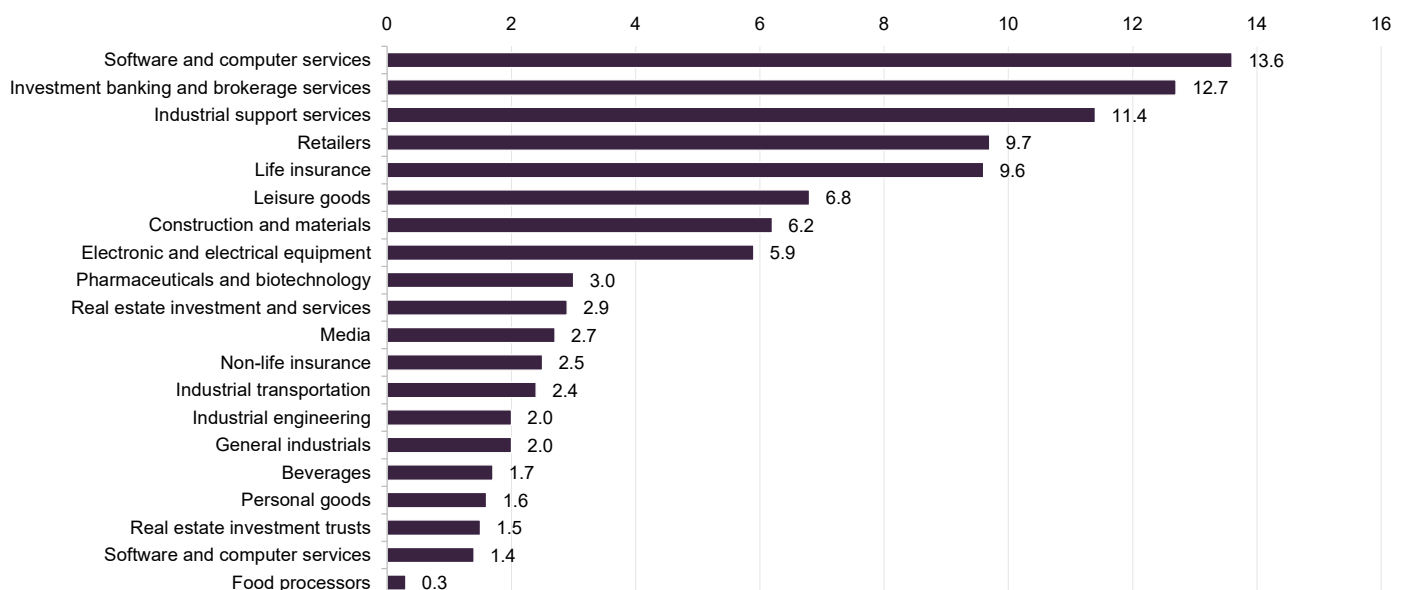
Asset allocation

Small-to-mid-cap-biased growth portfolio

As at 30 June 2025, BGUK's portfolio had 36 holdings, a decrease of five over 41 holdings as at 30 June 2024 (the most recently-available information when we last published). As illustrated in Figure 6, the portfolio has become further concentrated, with the top 10 stocks accounting for 48.3% of BGUK's total assets as at 30 June 2025, a noticeable increase of 5.4 percentage points over the 42.9% of BGUK's total assets as at 30 June 2024. The concentration has also increased in the top five stocks. This reflects the managers' efforts to focus the portfolio.

Portfolio is radically different to the benchmark.

Figure 1: Industry allocation as at 30 June 2025



Source: Baillie Gifford UK Growth Trust

Figure 1 provides a breakdown of the portfolio by industry as at the end of June 2025. This illustrates the diverse nature of the investment ideas within the portfolio, which has been a feature since Baillie Gifford took over management in 2018. Although the portfolio is inherently long-term and low-turnover, these allocations change gradually over time. We would also remind readers that, whilst this is a UK all-cap portfolio (meaning it can invest in companies of any market capitalisation), there are large chunks of the market to which BGUK offers no exposure, as should be expected of a concentrated growth portfolio that is not constructed with any regard to the benchmark.

Unsurprisingly, given the aim of maintaining a focused portfolio of individual growth ideas, the active share (a measure of how much a portfolio's holdings differ from its benchmark index) tends to be high (it was around 90% at the end of June 2025, which is in line with its long-term average).

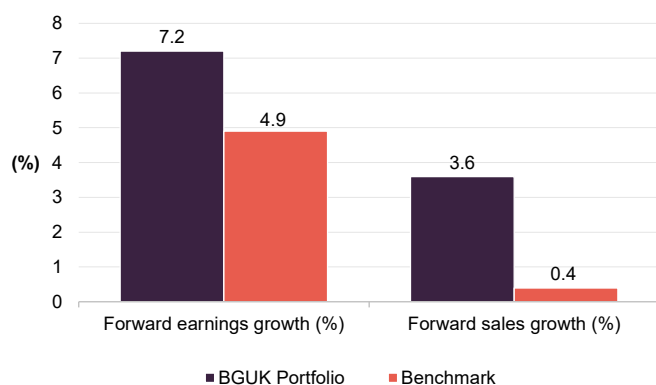
Portfolio characteristics

As illustrated in Figures 2 and 3, BGUK has a markedly different portfolio to the benchmark.

Traditionally, BGUK's portfolio has tended to trade at a noticeable premium valuation to the benchmark, reflecting its superior expected earnings and sales growth. As illustrated in Figure 3, BGUK's portfolio continues to have a strong bias to mid-cap stocks when compared to the benchmark.

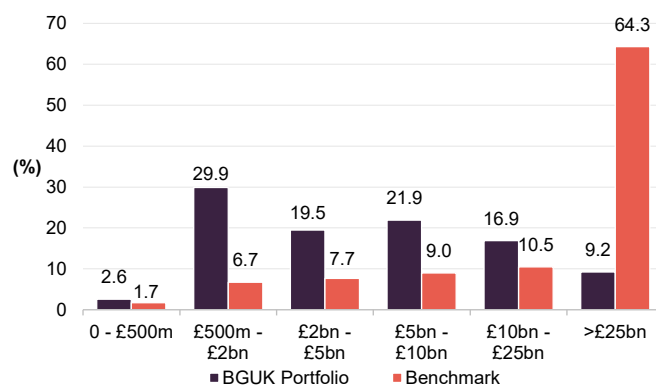
We would reiterate that the size bias is not something that its managers set out to achieve, but is a result of their stock selections and, moreover, reflects where they have been able to find the best opportunities.

Figure 2: BGUK portfolio valuations versus benchmark as at 30 June 2025



Source: Baillie Gifford, Marten & Co. Note Historic earnings growth is trailing five years. Return on equity and Price/earnings is based on 12-month forward estimates. Debt/equity excludes financials.

Figure 3: BGUK portfolio market cap split versus benchmark as at 30 June 2025



Source: Baillie Gifford, Marten & Co

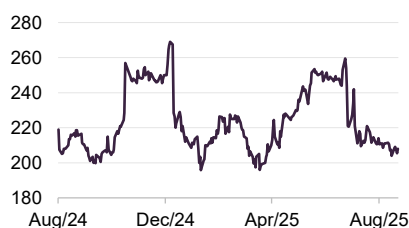
Portfolio activity

Reflecting the managers' low-turnover approach, the number of stocks entering and exiting the portfolio in a given year is likely to be limited. For example, during the year ended 30 April 2025, just two positions were exited: Hiscox and Rio Tinto. The managers say that having to fund the trust's share buybacks has helped to focus their minds, with the managers trimming positions in which they have lower conviction.

In the case of Hiscox, BGUK's managers still have a high opinion of the company's management, but have been disappointed by the lack of growth in its retail business. For Rio Tinto, the managers feel the demand outlook is unexciting.

They have also bolstered some existing positions where they have stronger conviction and valuations have been compelling – Moonpig and 4imprint, for example.

Figure 4: Moonpig share price (GBp)



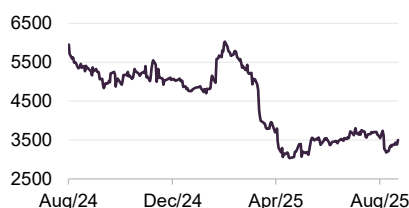
Source: Bloomberg

Moonpig – still benefitting from a permanent shift towards online

Moonpig Group (moonpig.group) is an online retailer of greetings cards and gifts, with a dominant position in the growing online market for greetings cards. As discussed in our previous notes (see our August 2024 note, where the investment rationale was covered in detail), BGUK's managers met the Moonpig team when the company had its IPO in February 2021, but felt that it was not the optimal time for a listing and that the valuation looked stretched (Moonpig had been a major COVID beneficiary). However, they continued to follow the company and, following conversations with management and a site visit, concluded that whilst new customer growth had slowed, they had increased confidence in the company's ability to drive sales growth, on the back of the significant investment it has made in data science.

BGUK's managers have continued to increase the position size as they have gained confidence. They think that the company's data science can be combined with AI to really improve the overall proposition. However, they believe that the market does not appreciate this growth potential and continues to value it as a bog-standard retailer.

Figure 5: 4imprint share price (GBp)



Source: Bloomberg

4imprint – a tougher environment plays to its strengths

4imprint (4imprint.com) is a direct marketer of promotional merchandise for corporates. It describes itself as the world's leading distributor of promotional gifts and has operations in the US, UK, and Europe, with the vast majority of its sales in the US. We last discussed 4imprint in detail in our September 2023 note, where we explained that its key US market is highly fragmented, but 4imprint has differentiated itself by being very good at marketing its own offering (from 2018 the company began allocating significant spend to advertising itself, and it did not cut the budget during COVID).

This allowed 4imprint to take advantage of opportunities when others were slashing advertising, and its marketing efficiency improved dramatically as a result. Then, as many smaller operations went under during lockdown, 4imprint was able to grab a lot of market share, which allowed its business to grow, creating further marketing synergies.

Reflecting its heavy exposure to the US and the fact that promotional merchandise is a highly cyclical business (sensitive to the ups and downs of the economy), 4imprint's shares derated on concerns about the outlook for the US economy. However, BGUK's managers think that it is very overly discounted, unless there is a very severe US recession, and that a tougher environment will once again play to 4imprint's strengths, allowing it to lay the groundwork to ramp up its growth when the economy recovers, as it has in previous downturns.

Top 10 holdings

Figure 6 shows BGUK's top 10 holdings as at 30 June 2025 and how these have changed since 30 June 2024 (the most recently available data when we last published). Reflecting the managers' long-term, low-turnover approach, most of the top 10 portfolio holdings will be familiar to regular followers of BGUK's portfolio announcements and our research on the trust.

Figure 6: Top 10 holdings as at 30 June 2025

Holding	Sector	Business	Portfolio weight 30 June 2025 (%)	Portfolio weight 30 June 2024 (%)	Percentage point change
Games Workshop	Consumer discretionary	Tabletop games manufacturer/retailer	6.7	5.1	1.6
Volution Group	Industrials	Ventilation equipment supplier	6.1	4.7	1.4
Auto Trader	Technology	UK second hand car advertising portal	5.7	5.6	0.1
Experian	Technology	Financial information services	5.1	5.4	(0.3)
AJ Bell	Financials	UK wealth manager	5.0	3.6	1.4
Wise	Financials	Online global FX money transfer	4.7	3.0	1.7
St. James's Place	Financials	UK Wealth management	4.2	1.9	2.3
Howden Joinery	Industrials	Manufacturer/distributor of kitchens to trade	4.1	4.1	-
Softcat	Technology	IT reseller and infrastructure solutions	3.5	3.6	(0.1)
Just Group	Financials	Retirement income products and services	3.4	2.7	0.7
Total of top five			28.6	24.9	3.7
Total of top 10			48.3	42.9	5.4

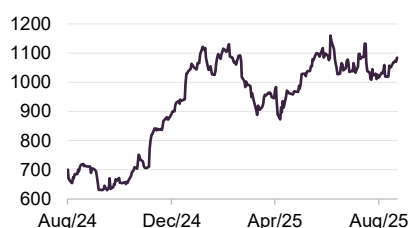
Source: Baillie Gifford UK Growth Trust, Marten & Co

Wise, St. James's Place and Just Group have moved up into the top 10.

New entrants to the top 10 are Wise, St. James's Place and Just Group. Names that have moved out of the top 10 are Ashtead, 4imprint (discussed above) and Kainos.

We discuss some of the more interesting developments in the next few pages. Other holdings have been discussed in our previous notes and readers may wish to refer

Figure 7: Wise share price (GBP)



Source: Bloomberg

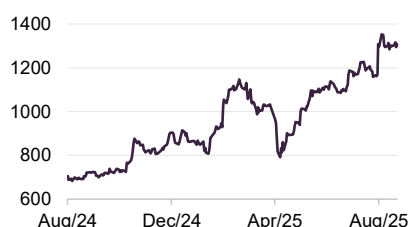
to these (for example, Volution, AJ Bell, Autotrader, Wise, St. James's Place and Howden Joinery were covered in detail in our August 2024 note – see page 31 of this note).

Wise (4.7%) – long runway for continued market share gains

Wise (wise.com) is a London-based financial technology (fintech) company that provides an online platform to send and receive money internationally at low cost. We last discussed it in our August 2024 note (see page 15 of that note) where we highlighted it as being the third largest contributor to performance for the year-ended 30 April 2024.

Wise continues to disintermediate (i.e., bypass or replace) the international money-transfer services of the traditional banks, which have traditionally charged a premium price for a relatively simple service. Wise's share price has performed strongly since we last published, largely reflecting a continuation of its underlying operational performance. BGUK's managers still believe that Wise is on track to become another SWIFT (a global financial messaging network for cross-border payments). They say that its strong customer proposition provides the potential for a long runway for continued market share gains in what is a large, global, cross-border market.

Figure 8: St. James's Place share price (GBP)



Source: Bloomberg

St. James's Place (4.2%) – benefitting from move to self-directed investing

We last discussed St. James's Place (sjp.co.uk) in our August 2024 note, where we explained that the UK's largest wealth manager had suffered a difficult year following the announcement of changes in its pricing structure and further provisions for potential client refunds "linked to the historic evidencing and delivery of ongoing servicing".

At the time, BGUK's managers felt St. James's Place's pricing was too high and needed come down to maintain competitiveness. They felt that this should allow it to retain customers and keep its sales momentum. They also felt that, with St. James's Place then trading around 0.4 x its embedded value (a valuation metric based on current book value and future expected profits), lots of bad news was factored into its share price and that the actual outlook was much better than this (the company was still seeing net inflows, for example).

BGUK's managers' patience has paid off. The company's franchise remains intact, and the stock has since rebounded. The managers like St James's Place as they see it as a beneficiary of the move to more self-directed investment decisions for UK-based savers, most notably those saving for retirement. They believe this **tailwind** should persist for decades to come.

Figure 9: Just Group share price (GBp)



Source: Bloomberg

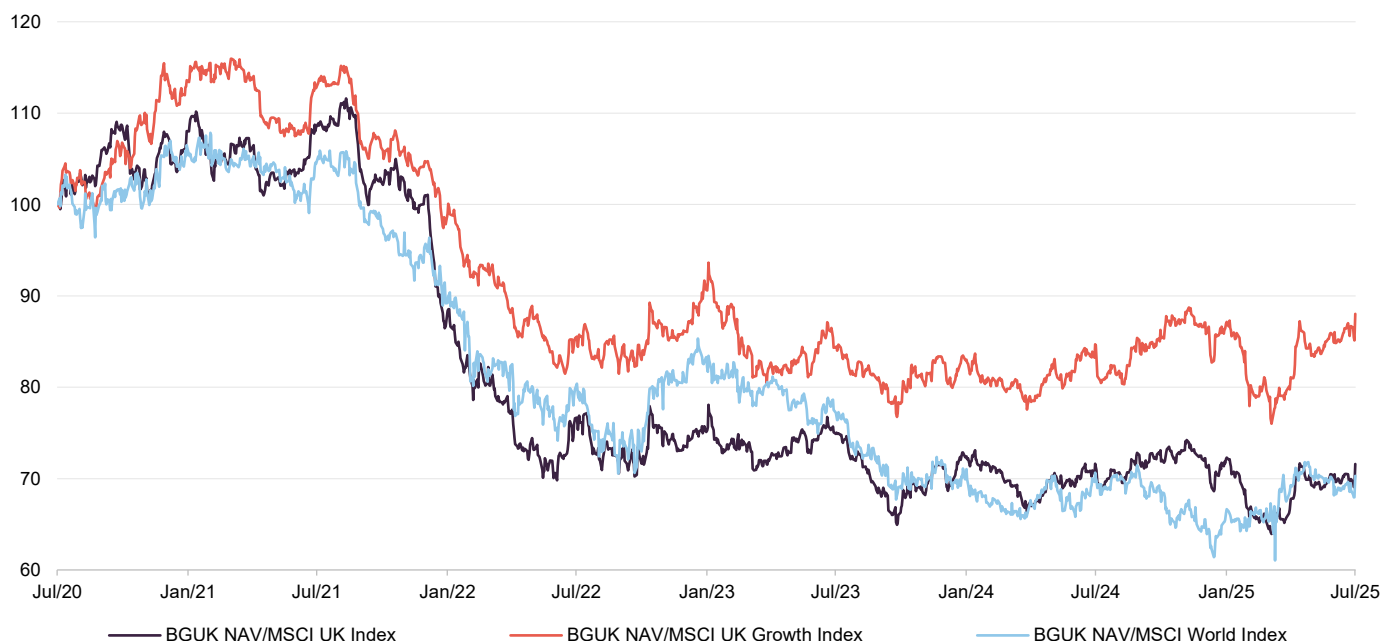
Just Group (3.4%) – Brookfield Wealth Solutions offer at 75% premium to undisturbed price

Just Group (justgroupplc.co.uk) is a specialist UK financial services company focused on providing retirement income solutions, notably bulk annuities for defined benefit pension schemes, individual annuities, and lifetime mortgages. The group has carved out a strong position in the market by combining deep actuarial expertise (the use of statistical and financial modelling to assess risk and pricing) with a robust capital base, enabling it to deliver secure, long-term cash flows for both institutional and retail clients. Recent years have seen the group benefit from favourable market conditions in bulk annuity demand, with trustees increasingly looking to de-risk pension schemes in a higher-yield environment.

BGUK's managers felt that with changes in personal finance, Just Group's end market was really buoyant, the company was very credible in its space and they could see significant upside potential, even though it had already done very well. The managers were proven to be correct as on 30 July 2025, it was announced that terms had been agreed for Just Group to be acquired by Brookfield Wealth Solutions, at a 75% premium to the prior day's close, in a deal valuing Just Group at £3.2bn. The managers believe that Just Group still has a positive growth runway but feel that the offer is at an acceptable price and provides a boost to BGUK's performance.

Performance

Figure 10: BGUK's NAV total return relative to various indices, over five years to 31 July 2025



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

Up-to-date information on BGUK and its peers is available on the [QuotedData](#) website.

As discussed in previous notes, a lot has impacted financial markets since Baillie Gifford took over the management of the trust in June 2018 – including Brexit, the pandemic, Ukraine, rapid interest rate rises to tackle in steeply rising inflation, and then cuts as it was brought under control, the dominance of the magnificent seven stocks in the US as excitement around AI grew; and – most recently – the disruptive influence of the new Trump presidency.

It was the impact of higher interest rates in 2022 that had the greatest impact on growth stocks and hence BGUK's relative NAV and share price performance. While this has stabilised since, as inflation was brought under control and interest rates receded, there remains considerable catch-up potential.

We would remind readers that Baillie Gifford undertook some analysis of the trust's performance in advance of last year's continuation vote to try and establish whether, since its peak in August 2021, significantly superior outcomes could have been achieved within the remit of the trust's strategy. We reviewed this analysis in detail in our last note in August 2024. The conclusion was that this would not have been possible without BGUK taking new positions in large index constituents, which would not have been consistent with its investment objective and would have undermined the managers' active, bottom-up, long-term growth-focused approach. The managers also concluded that, while we have witnessed an extraordinary few years where growth has been heavily out of favour, they believe it will reverse, and growth should have a long runway for outperformance. As a consequence, they did not change their style.

Figure 11: Cumulative total return performance over periods ending 31 July 2025

	3 months (%)	6 months (%)	YTD (%)	1 year (%)	3 years (%)	5 years (%)	BG tenure ¹ (%)	10 years (%)
BGUK NAV	15.9	6.3	12.9	13.2	27.7	36.1	27.4	57.5
BGUK share price	16.1	6.4	17.1	18.5	26.5	33.7	24.5	56.6
MSCI UK	7.8	7.4	13.8	12.7	36.6	90.1	56.4	99.5
MSCI UK Growth	5.0	5.3	11.7	8.8	23.8	54.6	66.7	106.8
MSCI World	13.1	0.8	5.2	12.8	44.9	93.5	125.6	240.1
Peer group average NAV²	11.2	7.6	11.6	6.5	30.1	78.1	45.7	89.8
Peer group average share price²	12.5	10.5	15.5	7.5	34.1	82.8	45.3	93.9

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co. Note: 1) The managers' tenure is calculated from 30 June 2018, the date at which Baillie Gifford was appointed as manager with effect from. 2) The peer group is defined on page 19.

Results for the year ended 30 April 2025

For its financial year ended 30 April 2025, BGUK achieved NAV and share price total returns of 7.1% and 13.6% respectively. In comparison, the broader MSCI UK Index returned 8.1% and the MSCI UK Growth Index 5.7%. BGUK's NAV was modestly below the return of its All-Share benchmark, which BGUK's annual report says returned 7.5%, while its share price total return was markedly ahead, reflecting its success in narrowing the discount (from 15.3% to 10.5%), following the introduction of the new discount control policy.

Relative performance was strong during the first half of the financial year. This continued well into the second half until February and March 2025 when both uncertainty around US trade policy and a drop in confidence in UK economic growth impacted UK equities and growth companies in particular. Attribution (the analysis of how different factors, such as asset allocation or stock selection, contributed to a portfolio’s overall return relative to its benchmark) numbers for the year show that stock selection was the primary driver, with 4Imprint and Renishaw the largest detractors. BGUK’s managers say that, whilst the backdrop has improved, the market remains sensitive to unexpected bad news, particularly for growth businesses.

Top positive contributors for the year to 30 April 2025

Figure 12 lists the top five contributors to performance for the year ended 30 April 2025. Games Workshop and Volution are discussed below, while St. James’s Place is discussed in the asset allocation section on page 12. Shell and Glencore International feature in the list because both performed poorly during the period, and neither was held within BGUK’s portfolio.

Figure 12: Top five positive contributors to returns

Stock	Total return (%) ¹	Contribution (%)
Games Workshop	62.0	2.6
St. James’s Place	120.5	1.6
Shell ²	(11.2)	1.3
Volution	32.7	1.2
Glencore International ²	(46.5)	1.2

Source: Baillie Gifford, Revolution, Sterling, Bloomberg, Marten & Co. Note: 1) Total return is calculated in sterling terms on a gross dividend basis. 2) Shell and Glencore International were not held within the portfolio.

Figure 13: Games Workshop share price (GBp)



Source: Bloomberg

Games Workshop is a British manufacturer of products for playing fantasy tabletop games, using figurines that the customers paint themselves, and is best known for its Warhammer and Warhammer 40,000 series of products. We last discussed Games Workshop in detail in our September 2023 note (see page 11 of that note), where we explained how the company had been a COVID beneficiary and, while there had been concerns that this benefit would unwind, that the increased earnings and revenues have proven to be sticky (recurring income streams that are dependable and difficult for customers to switch away from). This continues to be the case.

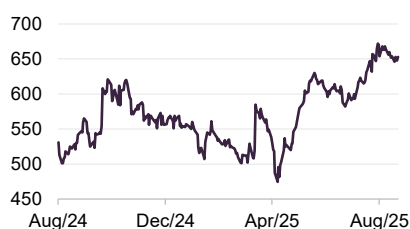
BGUK’s managers say Games Workshop’s “raw material is compelling”. It continues to deliver on the operational side (for example, the new Space Marine II game has been very successful, with both the company and its partners executing well on this) and is tracking well ahead of where they expected it to be.

The company continues to have big ambitions on the licensing side and, while BGUK’s managers acknowledge that much will depend on execution, it is the licensing deals that have driven recent strength (these deals are very high-margin and revenues doubled this year) and managers expect this will be a big driver of the business for the next 10 years. The company is working on an Amazon TV series,

and whilst there is naturally some uncertainty around this, the managers believe the chances of success are high as Games Workshop is heavily involved in its production.

The managers also believe that licensing success could create a virtuous circle (a positive feedback loop whereby success in one area attracts more opportunities) as others in the space will see the success and want to partner with the company and utilise its intellectual property. That said, BGUK's managers have recently trimmed the position on valuation grounds. They still retain their enthusiasm, but acknowledge that the shares have performed very well and the valuation is therefore more demanding.

Figure 14: Volution share price (GBp)



Source: Bloomberg

Volution is a manufacturer and supplier of ventilation products from simple extractor fans to more complex heat recovery solutions. We discussed it in detail in our August 2024 note – see page 12 of that note – where we explained that BGUK's managers see a long-term structural trend of efforts to improve air quality, with demand for Volution's products benefitting from environmental regulations in building and construction – for example, heat recovery ventilation solutions are already helping customers to meet new energy efficiency building standards.

As is illustrated in Figure 14, Volution's share price responded very positively following the announcement of its half-year results in March, which showed adjusted operating profit of £42.6m, up 10.4% on the prior year, with expansion of adjusted operating margin to 22.7% (H1 2024: 22.4%) on the back of a good operational performance. This allowed a 21.4% hike in the interim dividend to 3.4p. The share price was impacted by uncertainty caused by US trade policy but has since rebounded and continued to strengthen, hitting new highs.

The interim results showed 4% organic growth in revenue, and BGUK's managers continue to believe the structural tailwinds Volution benefits from could boost organic growth (growth excluding acquisitions) for years to come. Volution is another example of a BGUK holding that has maintained its advantage by consistently reinvesting in its business to drive innovation.

Top detractors for the year to 30 April 2025

Figure 15 provides the top five detractors from for the year ended 30 April 2025. Renishaw and Ashtead are discussed below, while 4imprint is discussed in the asset allocation section on page 10. HSBC and Rolls Royce feature in the list because both performed well during the period, and neither were held within BGUK's portfolio.

Figure 15: Top five negative contributors to return

Stock	Total return (%) ¹	Contribution (%)
4imprint	(44.2)	(2.2)
Renishaw	(44.7)	(1.9)
Ashtead	(30.4)	(1.2)
HSBC²	30.7	(1.1)
Rolls Royce²	84.1	(1.1)

Source: Baillie Gifford, Revolution, Sterling, Bloomberg, Marten & Co. Note: 1) Total return is calculated in sterling terms on a gross dividend basis. 2) HSBC and Rolls Royce were not held within the portfolio.

Figure 16: Renishaw share price (GBp)



Source: Bloomberg

Renishaw (a long-standing BGUK holding) is a world-leading British engineering group specialising in precision measurement, additive manufacturing (also known as 3D printing), and analytical instrumentation. The company has built a diversified portfolio serving industries from aerospace and electronics to healthcare, where its metal 3D printing and neurosurgical systems deliver high-value products.

While Renishaw's manufacturing is firmly anchored in the UK, it has a global sales and service footprint, and benefits from the resilience offered by having vertically integrated model (meaning Renishaw controls most parts of its production and supply chain). It is another BGUK holding that has a long-term commitment to **R&D**, leaving it well-positioned to benefit from structural growth drivers in automation, advanced manufacturing, and life sciences.

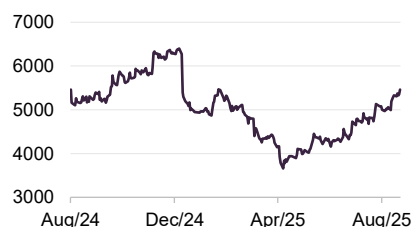
The market reacted negatively to its interim results in February, which missed analyst expectations. Currency headwinds (negative impact from exchange rate movements), supply-chain costs and issues with the product mix weighed on profitability and pre-tax profits of £57.5m – around £7m below forecasts – and a dividend freeze, pushed the share price down to around eight-year lows.

The company is economically sensitive and is particularly exposed to the semiconductor and electronics sectors (when demand for these areas softens, so does demand for Renishaw's precision measurement tools), which has also been another factor as the economic outlook has deteriorated in the face of changing US trade policy, although the share price has rebounded financial year end as some of these risks have receded.

In contrast to its interims, the company's third-quarter results were well-received by the market. These included the decision to close the loss-making drug delivery part of the company's neurological business, which is expected to lead an annual increase in group operating profit of around £3m once complete.

While acknowledging recent frustrations, BGUK's managers say that the long-term drivers underpinning Renishaw's growth remain intact and whilst the business is cyclical, the company has remained resilient – a combination of diversification in its product base and the vertical integration and control of its manufacturing – allowing it to exit downturns in a strong position.

Figure 17: Ashtead share price (GBp)



Source: Bloomberg

Ashtead is an international equipment rental company. It has national networks in the US, UK, and Canada; although over 80% of its business is in the US, where it is the second-largest provider with stores in 49 states. In our August 2024 note we noted that it had been one of the strongest contributors for the 2024 financial year.

At that time, BGUK's managers described it as one of the most exciting growth stories in the UK market, believing that it could double its market share again over the following decade. Their rationale was that Ashtead is benefitting from a long-term trend towards renting plant and equipment, rather than owning it, and acting as a consolidator in a very fragmented industry where smaller operators struggle to compete.

However, rental growth has slowed, reflecting weakening US construction on the back of higher interest rates and supply chain issues. In late December 2024, the company issued a profit warning (an announcement indicating earnings will be below expectations) citing this as the primary driver.

As with Renishaw, BGUK's managers acknowledge Ashtead's challenges, but see this as a cyclical issue that it is well-positioned to navigate. They think its long-term structural growth drivers remain intact, and that a more challenging period could, as with 4imprint, accelerate Ashtead's rate of consolidation and market share gains as smaller players struggle.

Peer group

Please [click here](#) to visit QuotedData.com for a live comparison of the UK all companies peer group.

BGUK sits in the UK All Companies sector, which now has five members, down from seven in our last note, following Artemis Alpha's merger with Aurora to create Aurora UK Alpha, and the wind-up of Henderson Opportunities. Members of UK all companies will typically have:

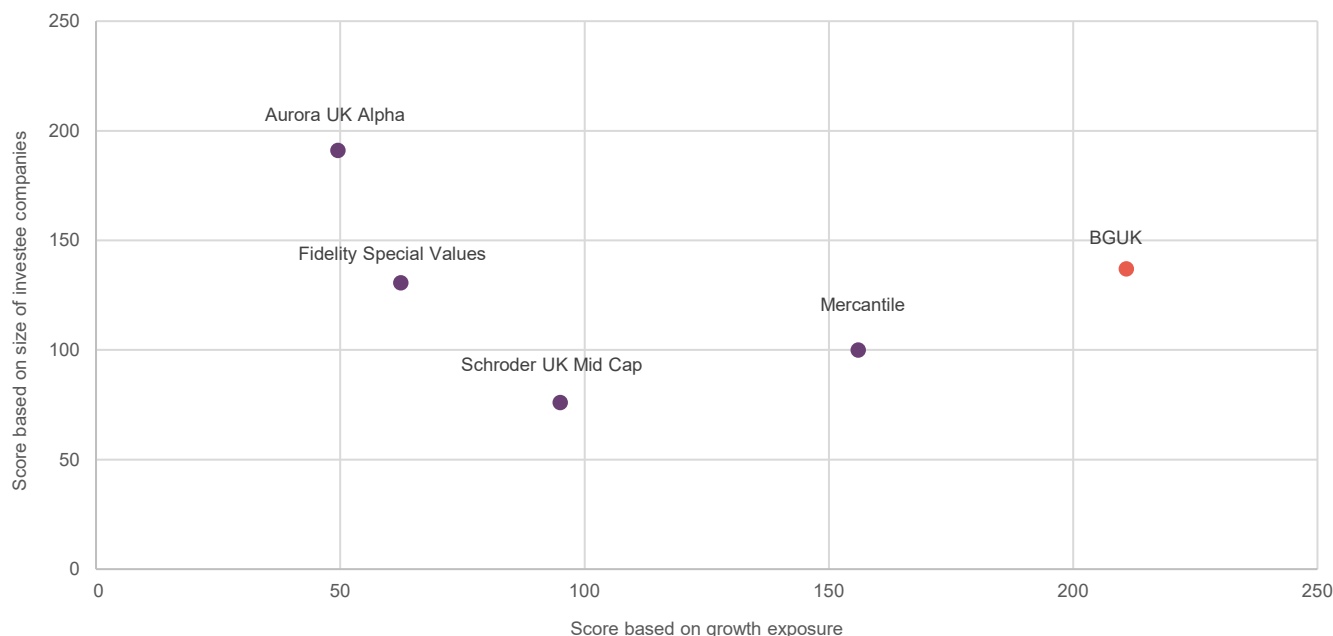
- over 80% invested in quoted UK shares;
- an investment objective/policy to generate majority of returns from capital growth.
- a majority of investments in medium- to giant-cap companies;
- a majority of expenses allocated to capital; and
- a UK benchmark.

A range of styles within the peer group

It is worth noting that, whilst the peer group is fundamentally capital-growth-focused, the Baillie Gifford approach is characterised by a particularly strong emphasis on growth, which is a differentiating factor when comparing BGUK to its peers.

Figure 18 provides a graphical representation of BGUK's investment style versus its UK All companies peers, based on analysis by Morningstar. The Y-axis (or vertical axis) is a size score – the larger the score, the larger the underlying investments in the portfolio, while the X-axis (or horizontal axis) is a measure of the growth and value factors (the larger the score, the more growth-orientated the trust's portfolio).

Figure 18: Holdings-based style map¹



Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co. Note: 1) Scores use information retrieved on 22 August 2025.

BGUK has the most growth-orientated strategy in its peer group.

It is clear that, versus its peers, BGUK remains the most growth-orientated strategy, and by some distance. BGUK's size exposure is towards the larger end of the peer group, although there is clear distance between BGUK and Aurora UK Alpha, reflecting the fact that BGUK operates with more of an all-cap strategy than Aurora UK Alpha.

It is also apparent that the UK all companies sector offers a range of different propositions, in terms of their value-growth tilt (the extent to which portfolios favour growth or value styles) and size bias. Fidelity Special Values and Aurora UK Alpha have a much stronger bias towards value, while Schroder UK Mid Cap's and Mercantile's portfolios are focused further down the market cap scale.

Peer group performance

Baillie Gifford took over the management for BGUK at the end of June 2018 following a period of poor relative performance under the previous manager. It has, therefore, managed the portfolio for a little over seven years, which has been a particularly challenging period for markets in general, but particularly for BGUK and growth-orientated peers, as interest rates have risen in response to rising inflation.

This has also been a period where UK equities have been out of favour with international investors, with small-cap equities disproportionately affected (see our previous notes for more discussion of this), which has also weighed on these funds' performance, impacting their longer-term track records, BGUK being more impacted than most because of its strong bias to growth.

Figure 19: Peer group cumulative NAV total return performance to 31 July 2025

	1 month (%)	3 months (%)	6 months (%)	YTD (%)	1 year (%)	3 years (%)	5 years (%)	BG's tenure* (%)
BGUK	6.2	15.9	6.3	12.9	13.2	27.7	36.1	27.5
Aurora	(3.1)	3.1	4.0	8.2	(2.8)	25.0	90.6	42.3
Fidelity Special Values	3.3	12.3	12.1	15.9	14.1	46.1	131.0	74.7
Mercantile	(0.3)	8.2	6.1	9.1	2.8	31.9	65.5	44.8
Schroder UK Mid Cap	2.0	16.7	9.4	12.3	4.8	19.9	67.2	39.3
BGUK rank	1/5	2/5	3/5	2/5	2/5	3/5	5/5	5/5
Sector arithmetic avg.	1.6	11.2	7.6	11.6	6.5	30.1	78.1	45.7
Sector arithmetic avg. exc. BGUK	0.5	10.1	7.9	11.3	4.8	30.7	88.6	50.3

Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

However, more recently, as investors' attention has shifted away from the US (a response to increased political and economic uncertainty, particularly following the chaotic delivery of the administration's new trade policy), the UK has benefitted. Larger stocks have seen the strongest gains so far. In addition, while there has recently been an uptick in inflation, the trend still appears to be towards lower interest rates as central banks look to stimulate slowing economies, which is also supportive of growth stocks. These trends could have much further to run.

Figure 20: Peer group comparison – size, fees, discount, and yield as at 22 August 2025

	Market cap (£m)	St. dev. of NAV returns over 5 years	Ongoing charges (%)	Perf. fee	Premium/ (discount) (%)	Dividend yield (%)	Gross gearing (%) ³	Net gearing (%) ³
BGUK	252	21.1	0.71	No	(10.6)	2.8	8.4	7.3
Aurora	287	21.4	0.45¹	Yes¹	(9.4)	1.3	Nil	(1.0)
Fidelity Special Values	1,255	17.6	0.70	No	(3.3)	2.5	13.7	5.9
Mercantile	1,816	23.7	0.48	No	(9.9)	3.0	14.6	12.5
Schroder UK Mid Cap	240	22.3	1.05	No	(7.3)	3.1	7.8	10.0
BGUK rank²	4/5	2/5	4/5		5/5	3/5	3/5	3/5
Sector arithmetic avg.	770	21.2	0.68		(8.1)	2.5	8.9	6.9
Sector arithmetic avg. exc. BGUK	899	21.3	0.67		(7.5)	2.5	9.0	6.9

Source: The AIC, Morningstar, Company factsheets, Marten & Co Notes: 1) Aurora does not charge a base management fee and, consequently, has a particularly low ongoing charges ratio. It charges a performance fee instead, based on the outperformance of its benchmark. 2) Market cap and dividend yield are ranked in increasing size order (the larger the market cap or dividend yield, the higher the ranking). All other rankings are in decreasing size order (the lower the standard deviation of returns, the lower the ongoing charges ratio, the lower the value of the premium/(discount), the lower the gross and net gearing, all correspond to a higher ranking). 3) Gross and net gearing are as at 31 July 2025 and are calculated as a proportion of net assets with debt at fair value. A negative figure indicates a net cash position.

As is illustrated in Figure 20, BGUK ranks fourth out of five in terms of market capitalisation, although its size is not dissimilar to either Aurora (which is much bigger than it was, having absorbed Artemis Alpha) and Schroder UK Mid Cap.

Despite a trend towards repurchasing shares, most of the funds have seen a marked uplift in market capitalisation since we last published, reflecting their performance.

BGUK has the widest discount in the sector, although its discount is highly comparable to those of Aurora and Mercantile and could tighten from here in an environment where growth stocks outperform.

BGUK's **ongoing charges** continue is modestly above the average for the peer group, although the peer group average of 0.68% is pulled down by Aurora (it has a particularly low ongoing charges ratio as it does not charge a base management fee, but, unlike the overwhelming majority of its peers, charges a performance fee to compensate) and Mercantile (this just benefits from its significant size advantage – its market cap is 2.4 times the sector average).

Gearing is another consideration, and this can be more of a concern for investors when markets are at more elevated levels (as leverage amplifies both gains and losses). BGUK's gearing levels (data as at the end of July 2025) and broadly in line with the sector averages.

BGUK, like most of the funds in this peer group, does not pay a performance fee.

Traditionally, in what is a capital-growth-focused sector, BGUK's yield has tended to be low and modestly below the sector average. However, the yield is currently modestly above the sector average. As discussed in the **dividend** section below, BGUK's board has decided to dip modestly into the trust's reserves to increase the dividend by 0.1p to 5.7p per share.

The volatility of BGUK's NAV has tended to be one of the lowest in its peer group over the longer term, a feature that has been retained since the management contract moved to Baillie Gifford.

Dividend

BGUK's investment strategy focuses on generating capital growth for shareholders and dividends are paid to the extent that they are required to maintain BGUK's investment trust status. As such, whilst the UK has traditionally been one of the higher-yielding markets, dividends are likely to form a small component of shareholders overall returns and BGUK pays one dividend as a final dividend, following shareholders' approval at the AGM (now usually in September).

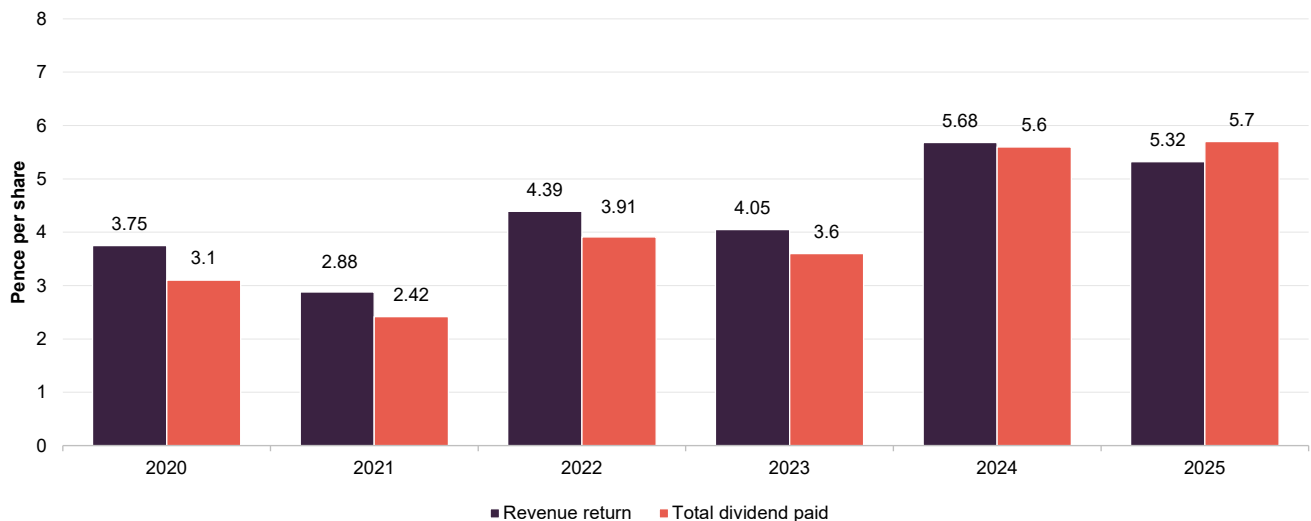
For the year ended 30 April 2025, BGUK's board is proposing the payment of a final dividend of 5.7p per share (2023: 5.6p per share), which is equivalent to a yield of 2.8% on the trust's share price of 204.0p per share as at 22 August 2025.

With revenue income of 5.32p per share for the year (because of reduced dividends from 4imprint and St James Place, and the sale of positions in Rio Tinto and Hargreaves Lansdown), the FY25 will require a small drawdown from revenue reserves but the trend has overwhelmingly been one of BGUK paying a covered dividend (i.e., paid out of income without requiring borrowing).

BGUK's revenue income has exceeded its dividend in recent years, allowing the trust to build on its revenue reserve (accumulated income not yet distributed to shareholders). As at 30 April 2025, BGUK had a revenue reserve of £17.6m or

13.57p per share (30 April 2024: £18.2m or 12.41p per share). BGUK is also permitted to pay dividends out of its capital profits.

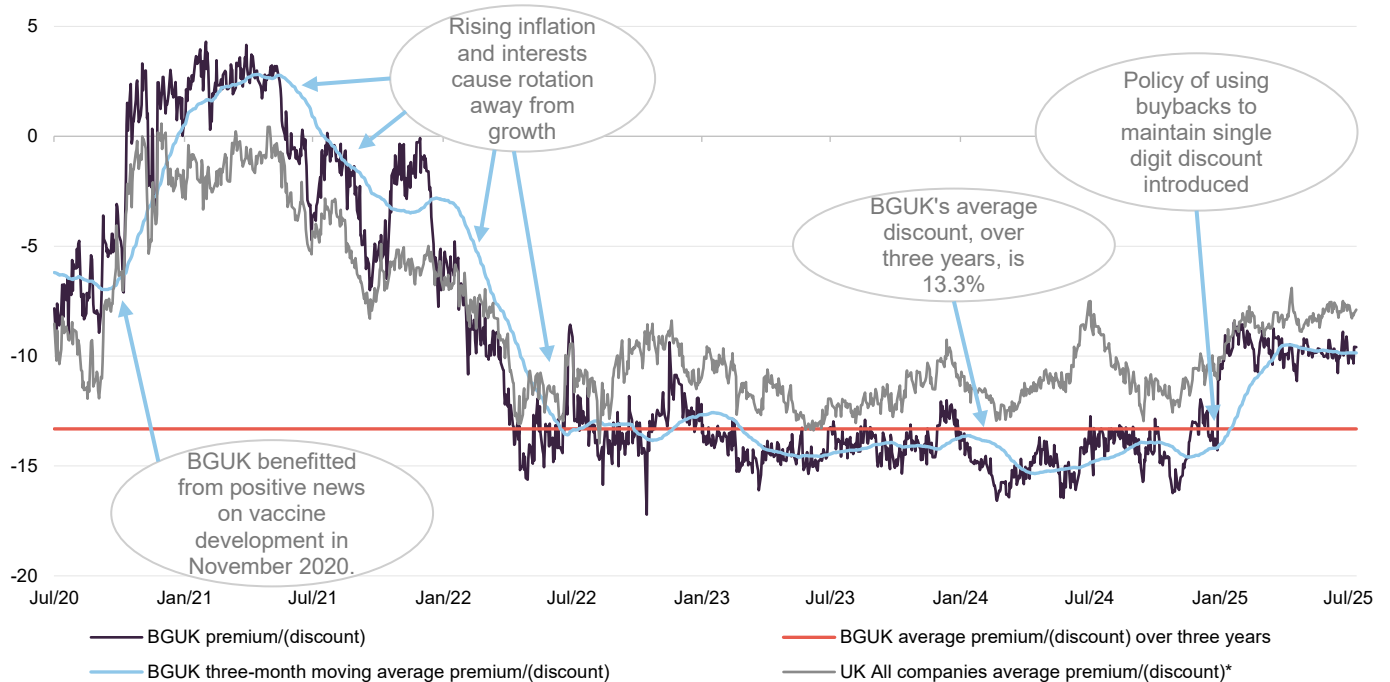
Figure 21: BGUK revenue income and dividend by financial year (ended 30 April)



Source: Baillie Gifford UK Growth Trust

Premium/(discount)

Figure 22: BGUK premium/(discount) over five years



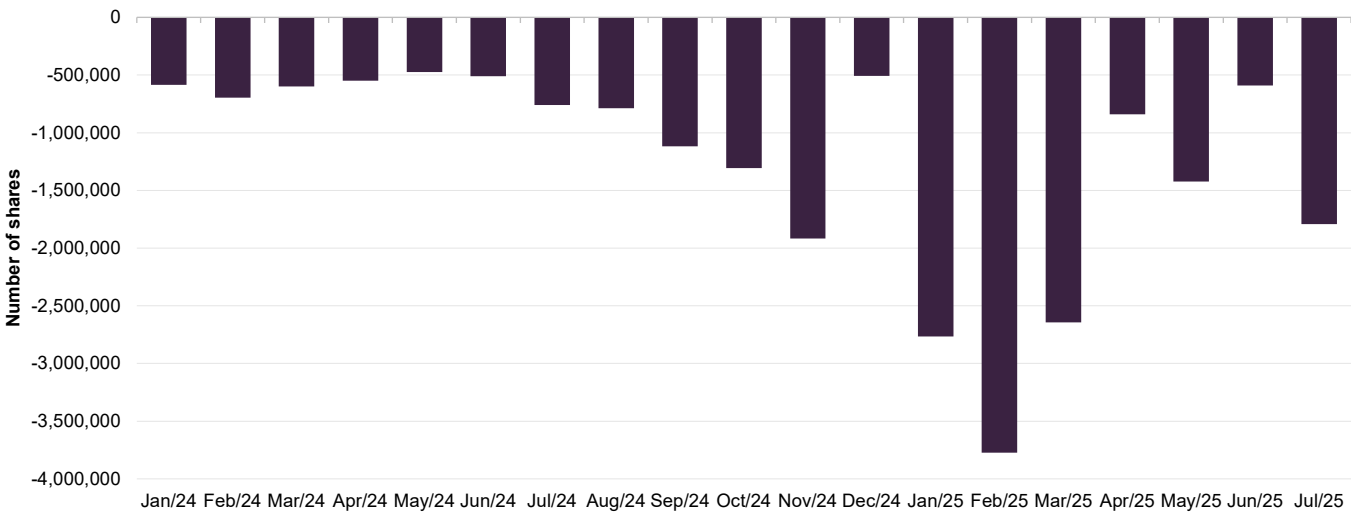
Source: Morningstar, Marten & Co

As at 22 August 2025, BGUK was trading at a discount of 10.6%, which is narrower than its one- and three-year averages of 11.7% and 13.3% respectively. It is also broadly in line with its five-year average of 9.5% and narrower than the average discount since the new discount control policy was put in place with effect from 28 January 2025. The discount range since the new policy was introduced is between 8.5% to 11.1% and it is clear from Figure 22 that the discount has been less volatile since the introduction of the policy. During the first six months of the policy, BGUK repurchased 11.0m shares versus 12.0m shares purchased during the previous 12 months. It also renewed its buyback authority on 3 July 2025 to ensure that it is able to keep buying back stock. The board will also ask shareholders to approve authority for buybacks at the **AGM** in September.

In previous notes (see page 31 of this note) we have explained how, against a backdrop of rising inflation expectations and higher interest rates during the last three years, growth companies have been out of favour, which impacted BGUK's NAV performance and caused its discount to widen significantly, from trading a sensible single-digit discount to a mid-teens discount.

BGUK's peers were similarly affected, but less so, which likely reflects the fact that BGUK is the most growth orientated fund in the group (see above). However, BGUK has seen a step change in its discount since announcing its policy of repurchasing shares to keep the discount at single-digit levels.

Figure 23: BGUK net recent share issuance/(repurchases) since January 2024



Source: Baillie Gifford UK Growth Trust, Marten & Co

Structure

Fees and costs

Low base fee of 0.5% per annum; no performance fee

Baillie Gifford earns a management fee of 0.5% per annum of net assets, calculated and paid quarterly in arrears. There is no performance fee. The agreement can be terminated by Baillie Gifford with six months' notice and by BGUK with three months' notice.

Secretarial and administrative services

Baillie Gifford & Co Limited also provides company secretarial (tasks that ensure a company complies with legal and regulatory requirements) and administrative services, all covered by the management fee. The Bank of New York Mellon (International) acts as depositary (overseeing a fund's assets, ensuring they are properly managed and safeguarded) and custodian (responsible for the safe holding and administration of the fund's securities and cash). Its fees are not disclosed, but are included in the trust's administrative expenses.

Allocation of fees and costs

The **management fee** is split 30% to revenue and 70% to capital, reflecting the board's view of the long-term balance of returns. The ongoing charges ratio for the year to 30 April 2025 was 0.71%, marginally higher than 0.70% a year earlier, reflecting a slight uptick in costs and the impact of share buybacks. Baillie Gifford took over management in 2018 and waived its fee for 2019, cutting the ongoing charges ratio to 0.51% (it would otherwise have been 0.76%).

Growth in assets and share issuance (creating and offering new shares to investors in order to raise capital) drove BGUK's ongoing charges ratio lower between 2020 and 2022, before weaker markets pushed it higher in 2023. It held steady in 2024, with recovering capital values offsetting the impact of buybacks. We continue to believe that renewed share issuance, or a further rebound in asset values, could drive the ongoing charges ratio lower. A more stable interest rate backdrop should also support this.

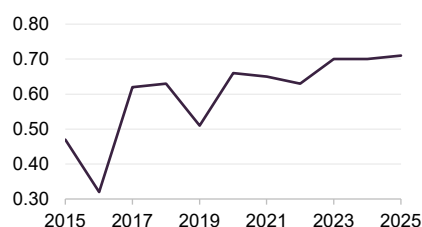
Capital structure and life

Simple capital structure

BGUK has a simple capital structure with one class of ordinary share in issue. Its ordinary shares have a premium main market listing on the London Stock Exchange and, as at 22 August 2025, there were 160,917,184 in issue with 37,495,000 of these held in **treasury** and 123,422,184 in general circulation.

BGUK can borrow, but net gearing is capped at 20% of net assets. The board sets and periodically reviews limits to keep ensure gearing levels are appropriate to market conditions. As at 31 July 2025, BGUK had gross gearing of 8.4% and net gearing (including the offsetting effect of cash balances) of 7.3% of net assets.

Figure 24: BGUK ongoing charges ratio (%)¹



Source: Baillie Gifford UK Growth Trust
Note: 1) For financial years ended 30 April.

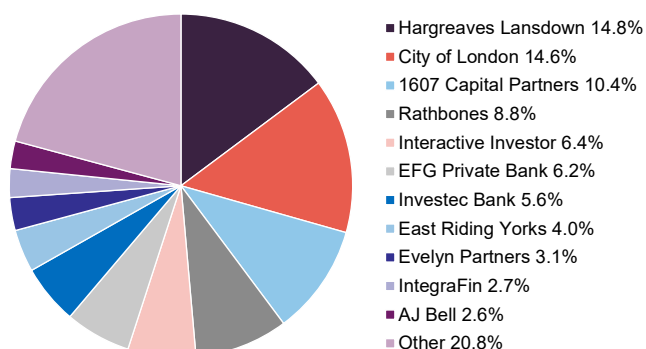
BGUK has one class of ordinary share in issue. It can gear up to 20% of net assets.

BGUK has a significant retail presence on its share register.

Major shareholders

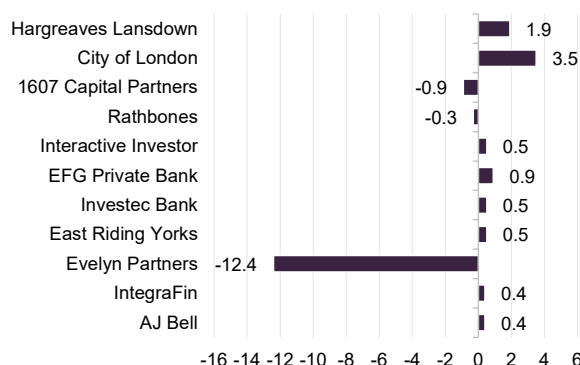
Figure 25 illustrates that BGUK has a strong retail element within its share register, with major D2C (direct-to-consumer) platforms making up around 25% of the register. Wealth managers and intermediaries account for roughly 40%. Since our last update, the big change is the drop in holding by Evelyn Partners, but otherwise, most institutions and wealth managers have been adding at the margin.

Figure 25: Major shareholders as at 13 August 2025



Source: Bloomberg, Marten & Co

Figure 26: Percentage point changes in shareholdings since 5 August 2024¹



Source: Bloomberg, Marten & Co. Note: 1) The date of the shareholder data used when we last published on BGUK.

Unlimited life with a five-yearly continuation vote

BGUK has no fixed life, but shareholders vote on its continuation every five years via a special resolution at the AGM (a proposal requiring at least 75% of shareholder votes in favour to be passed). If not approved, the board would put forward proposals to liquidate or otherwise restructure the trust. The last vote, in August 2024, passed. The next is due in 2029, although an additional vote will be held in 2027. A performance-triggered **tender** is also planned for 2029 if BGUK's NAV per share underperforms the All-Share over the five years to 30 April 2029.

Financial calendar

The trust's year-end is 30 April. The annual results are usually released in June or July (interims in November or December) and its AGMs are usually held in September of each year – this year's is on 3 September. As discussed earlier, BGUK pays one final dividend a year after the AGM if one is required to be paid.

Corporate history

BGUK is a UK investment trust that was originally incorporated on 28 January 1994 as the Schroder UK Growth Fund Plc. The trust, which listed on the London Stock Exchange following its IPO on 10 March 1994, has a premium main market listing. On 13 April 2018, the trust's board announced that it had decided to terminate the management arrangements with Schroder Unit Trusts Limited and appoint Baillie Gifford & Co Limited in its stead. Baillie Gifford was appointed with effect from 30 June 2018, with the trust changing its name to Baillie

Baillie Gifford has been managing BGUK for just over seven years.

Gifford UK Growth Fund Plc at the same time. On 25 May 2021, the trust changed its name again to Baillie Gifford UK Growth Trust Plc. Baillie Gifford has now been managing BGUK for just over six years.

Management team

Iain McCombie

Iain joined Baillie Gifford in 1994 and has spent the majority of his career as an investment manager in the UK equity team. He became a partner in 2005. Iain graduated with an MA in Accountancy from the University of Aberdeen, and qualified as a Chartered Accountant.

Milena Mileva

Milena joined Baillie Gifford in 2009 and is an investment manager in the UK equity team. She became a partner in 2022. Milena graduated with a BA in Social & Political Sciences from the University of Cambridge in 2007 and an MPhil in Politics from the University of Oxford in 2009.

Board

All directors retire and stand for re-election annually.

BGUK's board currently comprises five directors, all of whom are non-executive and considered to be independent of the investment manager. BGUK's articles of association (an internal rulebook that sets out how it is governed) require that newly-appointed directors offer themselves for election at the next AGM. It is board policy that all directors retire and offer themselves for re-election at each AGM.

Figure 27: Board member – length of service and shareholdings

Director	Position	Date of appointment	Length of service (years)	Annual fee (GBP) ¹	Shareholding ²	Years of fee invested ³
Neil Rogan	Chairman	1 January 2024	1.7	46,500	84,861	3.7
Andrew Westenberger	Chair of the audit committee	5 May 2017	8.3	36,000	20,000	1.1
Ruary Neill	Senior independent director	15 November 2018	6.8	32,500	36,707	2.3
Cathy Pitt	Director	5 August 2021	4.1	31,000	16,487	1.1
Seema Paterson	Director	2 January 2025	0.6	31,000	10,000	0.7
Average (service length, annual fee, shareholding, years of fee invested)			4.3	35,400	33,611	1.8

Source: Baillie Gifford UK Growth Trust, Marten & Co Notes: 1) Director's fees are those expected for the year ended 30 April 2026. The chairman, audit committee chair and senior independent director positions have earned higher fees historically than other directors reflecting the additional responsibilities of these positions. 2) Shareholdings as per most recent company announcements as at 22 August 2025. Years of fee invested based on BGUK's ordinary share price of 204.00p as at 22 August 2025.

The average length of service is 4.3 years, with Andrew Westenberger, the chair of the audit committee, being the longest-serving, with 8.3 years of service under his belt. Other than BGUK's board, its directors do not have any other shared directorships. The company's articles of association limit the aggregate fees

payable to the directors to a total of £200,000 per annum, shareholders will be asked to increase this to £250,000 at the forthcoming AGM. The average fee rates for the individual director positions for the current financial year have increased by 4.4% over FY25.

Recent share purchase and disposal activity by directors

Significant buying BGUK's directors helps alignment and shows strong confidence in its investment proposition.

Since we last published, there have been significant investments by BGUK's directors in the company's shares by four of its directors, with Neil Rogan increasing his shareholding over 5x during FY25; Ruary Neill 3.1x; Cathy Pitt 2.1x; and Seema Paterson, BGUK's newest director, making her inaugural purchase of shares. There have been no share sales since we last published. As illustrated in Figure 38, all of BGUK's directors have personal investments in the fund, which we consider to be favourable as it helps align directors' interests with those of shareholders. The average interest is equivalent to 1.8 years or more of their fees, which is a significant increase over the 0.7 years when we last published.

Neil Rogan (chairman)

Neil was appointed to BGUK's board in January 2024 and subsequently became its chairman on 14 June 2024. He is chairman of Invesco Asia Trust Plc and a director of JPMorgan Global Growth & Income Trust Plc. Prior to this, he was an investment manager with Touche Remnant, Flemings and most recently Gartmore/Henderson where he was head of global equities. He was also previously the chairman of Murray Income Trust Plc and a director of The Scottish Investment Trust Plc.

Andrew Westenberger (chairman of the audit committee)

Andrew was appointed a director in 2017 and became chairman of the audit committee in 2017. He is the chief executive officer of Hurst Point Group. Previously, he was chief financial officer of Tysers Insurance Brokers, a leading independent specialist broker and risk management firm. He was also group finance director of Brewin Dolphin Holdings Plc and Evolution Group Plc, a non-executive director and trustee of the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investments and held senior finance roles at Barclays Capital and Deutsche Bank. He is a Chartered Accountant.

Ruary Neill (senior independent director)

Ruary was appointed a director in 2018 and became senior independent director in 2021. He is currently a director of JP Morgan Emerging Markets Investment Trust Plc. Previously, he worked in investment banking at UBS Investment Bank, prior to which he spent several years in the financial sector working in Asian Equity Markets for UBS Investment Bank and Schroder Securities.

Cathy Pitt (director)

Cathy was appointed a director in 2021. She is a former consultant partner at international law firm CMS and has over 20 years' experience advising boards and asset managers on a broad range of corporate matters. She is a non-executive director of Gresham House Energy Storage Fund Plc and the Association of Investment Companies.

Seema Paterson (director)

Seema Paterson was appointed a director in 2025. She is currently chief financial officer and board director of This Works Products Limited. She sits as chair of the audit committee of CQS Natural Resources Growth and Income Plc and also serves on the board of Resurgo Trust, a youth employment charity based in London. She previously worked in mergers and acquisitions at Société Générale and in corporate finance at Collins Stewart. She is a Chartered Accountant.

SWOT analysis

Figure 28: SWOT analysis for BGUK

S STRENGTHS	W WEAKNESSES
A laser focus on growth investing within the UK, providing investors with exposure to high quality, growing companies. The managers do not waver even if market conditions are unfavourable.	BGUK suffers from periods when performance is difficult, particularly when the market backdrop is unhelpful for growth investors, such as the period of higher inflation and interest rates from late 2021.
The board and the managers have demonstrated a clear prioritising of shareholder interests, such as through their single-digit discount control policy and their review of performance to assess whether better outcomes could have been achieved within the mandate.	Low income yield, although this should be well understood by shareholders.
O OPPORTUNITIES	T THREATS
There are increasing signs that growth investing is coming back into favour, against a backdrop of interest rate cuts, both in the UK and globally.	The market could once again turn against growth investing, particularly if inflation re-emerges as a threat, as there are signs of in the UK most recently.
Investors appear to be looking more favourably at the UK, not least due to the policy and fiscal uncertainty in the US caused by the Trump administration. For example, the FTSE100 index is currently trading at an all-time high.	Single stock issues could hurt performance, given the unapologetically bottom-up nature of the fund.

Source: Marten & Co

Bull vs bear case

Figure 29: Bull vs bear case for BGUK



Performance	Absolute performance has been positive over all time periods. One-year performance, both NAV and share price, is ahead of the MSCI UK index and well ahead of the peer group.	BGUK has had a difficult few years of relative underperformance. This has largely been due to growth investing being out of favour against a backdrop of rising inflation and interest rates.
Dividends	BGUK focuses on capital growth rather than income. The annual dividend maintains its investment trust status, and it has built up a revenue reserve.	BGUK's very modest yield makes it unsuitable for some investors. The most recent annual payment was not covered, although that was unusual.
Outlook	UK and growth investing appear to be coming into favour with investors, which should suit BGUK.	Growth investing generally relies on subdued inflation and interest rates to be successful. However, there are signs of an uptick of inflation in the UK, albeit the direction of interest rates is still down for now.
Discount	The board has a control mechanism to keep the discount in single figures, which has already had a material impact. The current discount could narrow or even move to a premium if the market environment is positive for BGUK and its stock picks look like coming good.	The discount could widen further, and the control mechanism come under pressure, if rising UK inflation leads to a renewed period of underperformance for growth investing.

Source: Marten & Co

Previous publications

Readers interested in further information about BGUK may wish to read our previous notes, which are detailed in the table below. You can read the notes by clicking on the links in the table or by visiting our website.

Figure 30: QuotedData’s previously published notes on BGUK

Title	Note type	Publication date
Looking way beyond the now	Initiation	18 August 2021
Patience will be rewarded	Annual overview	15 September 2022
A recipe for a rerating	Annual overview	26 September 2023
Light at the end of the tunnel	Annual overview	7 August 2024

Source: Marten & Co



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