

IFSL Blackfinch
 NextGen Infrastructure

March 2025
Fund Factsheet

Investment Objective

The aim of the Fund is to increase the value of an investment over a minimum of 5 years. The Fund will do this through a combination of capital growth, which is profit on investments held, and income received by the Fund, which is money paid out of investments, such as dividends and interest.

Portfolio Information
Class A: Accumulation Share ISIN

GB00BQ2MXR31

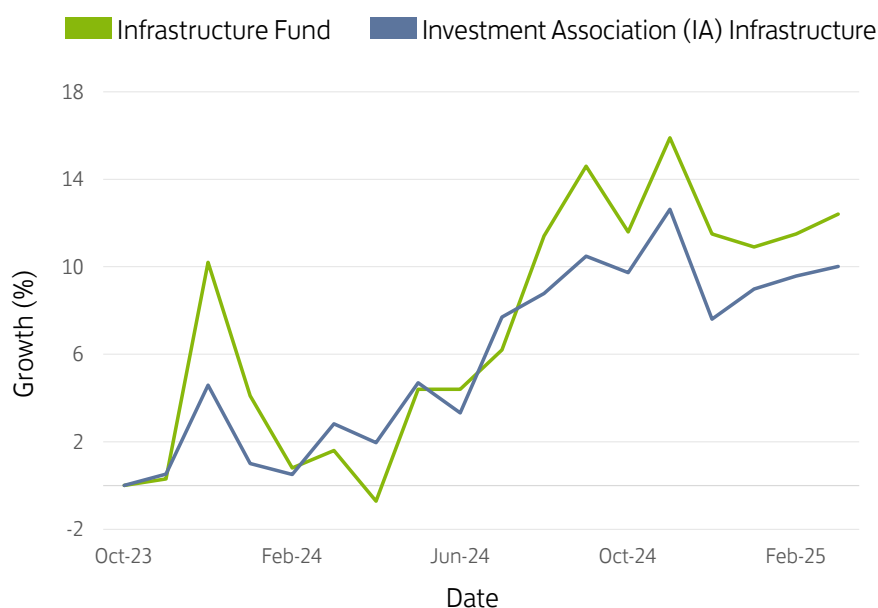
Class A Management Fee	Class A Underlying fund charges
0.75%	0.77%

Class B: Accumulation Share ISIN

GB00BQ2MXY08

Class B Management Fee	Class B Underlying fund charges
0.65%	0.67%

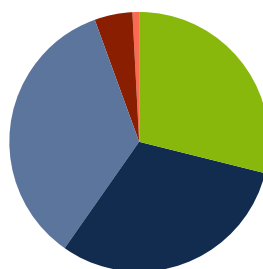
Estimated Annual Income Yield (Class B)	Number of holdings
2.55%	42

Performance Since Launch

Cumulative Performance (%)

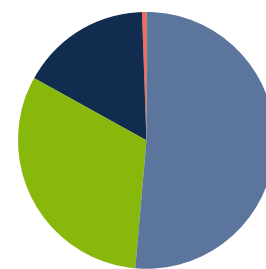
	1 Year	3 Year	5 Year	10 Year
Fund	10.6%	-	-	-
Sector	7.0%	-	-	-

Discrete Performance (%) - to last month end

	Mar 24/25	Mar 23/24	Mar 22/23	Mar 21/22	Mar 20/21
Fund	10.6%	-	-	-	-


Thematic Allocation
 (as at 31/03/2025)

Energy Transition	29.00%
Sustainable Urbanisation	30.97%
Digitalisation	34.61%
Multi-Thematic	4.61%
Cash & Equivalent	0.81%


Regional Allocation¹
 (as at 31/03/2025)

North America	49.17%
Europe	35.74%
Asia Pacific	14.29%
Cash & Equivalent	0.81%

Date of inception: 24/11/2023.

¹Based on the country of domicile. IFSL Blackfinch OEIC Sub-Funds performance figures are quoted net of AMC and fund OCFs.

Investment Fund Services Limited (IFSL) acts as the Fund's Authorised Corporate Director (ACD). The Key Investor Information Documents and the Prospectuses for all funds are available, in English, free of charge and can be obtained directly using the contact details in the Sales Contact section. They can also be downloaded from www.ifslfunds.com.

Fund Managers

GEORGE NIKOLAOU

Lead Fund Manager



DR DAN APPLEBY

CIO & Support Fund Manager



George Nikolaou, Lead Fund Manager and Dr Dan Appleby, CIO and Support Fund Manager are responsible for managing the IFSL Blackfinch NextGen Infrastructure Fund. They bring expertise in the research of listed property, infrastructure and equity investment products, managing client portfolios and working closely with financial advisers and other professional clients. Each is a CFA® charterholder.

Sales Contact

For further information about the Fund, please contact:



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In March, the IFSL Blackfinch NextGen Infrastructure Fund (B Accumulation share class) returned +0.81% after all fees and expenses. This compares to the IA Infrastructure Sector average return of +0.40%. Since inception, the Fund has returned +12.40% sector average return of +10.31%. The investment team employs a multi-thematic growth-driven approach, therefore returns will frequently diverge against peers, as evidenced by the wide disparity in relative performance since launch.

Global infrastructure stocks outperformed global equity and bond indices. Slowing economic growth, policy uncertainty – particularly surrounding tariffs – and weaker corporate guidance continued to weigh on equity market sentiment. The 10-year US Treasury yield climbed to 4.36% but ended the month at 4.20%. The artificial intelligence (AI) trade, so successful throughout 2024, continued to unwind over concerns of weaker corporate guidance in the upcoming earnings period.

The Fund outperformed broader infrastructure indices. The best performing sub-sector was UK Battery Storage, supported by continued corporate activity. Furthermore, Germany announced a €500bn stimulus package aimed at revitalising the country's infrastructure and energy sectors, which significantly benefited the Fund though our local exposure to the German grid network, waste infrastructure and renewable energy. Fund losses were mostly from stocks exposed to the AI theme, such as data centres. There was a notable regional divergence, with Europe strong and US performance was particularly negative. The significant strength of Sterling against the US Dollar through March was the main detractor to US regional performance.

As at 31 March, the Fund held 42 individual holdings and was well-diversified across underlying themes, sectors and geographies. Energy Transition produced the strongest returns while Digitalisation detracted significantly to performance (estimated gross total returns: Digitalisation -2.8%, Sustainable Urbanisation +1.0%, Energy Transition +7.3% and Multi-Thematic -7.7%). The top three contributors were Gresham House Energy Storage Fund, IHS Towers Ltd, and Elia Group. The top three detractors were Equinix Inc, SUNeVision Holdings and NEXTDC Ltd.

Despite the likelihood of short- to medium-term volatility driven by inflation, interest rates and rapidly shifting policy from the US, we remain optimistic that the underlying businesses in our NextGen thematic growth universe and in our investment strategy will prove resilient. The companies we invest in are growth-orientated and we believe that share prices in the longer term may reflect underlying cash flows, potentially leading to investment returns consistent with our expectations.

In March, shares of Belgian-listed grid operator Elia Group (c. 3.0% portfolio weighting) rose nearly 40% on the announcement of a capital raising to fund its significant growth investments, mainly in Germany. We participated on what we considered very favourable price terms. Elia Group is expected to be a major beneficiary of Germany's recently-announced fiscal boost targeting critical infrastructure assets over the coming decades.

A 'bidding war' for the takeover of Harmony Energy Income Trust (not held on liquidity grounds) continued to support share prices in the two other battery storage trusts in the market, Gresham House Energy Storage and Gore Street Energy Storage, which are both holdings in the Fund. Both delivered returns in excess of 20% during the month.

We frequently review major changes to regional government policies and adopt accordingly. The Trump administration has put dispatchable technologies like nuclear, natural gas, and geothermal high on its energy policy agenda. Incentive schemes for renewable assets under the Inflation Reduction Act are under scrutiny, while offshore wind projects are being strongly opposed with permits halted under Executive Orders. In response, we added Ormat Technologies Inc (c. 2.0% portfolio weighting), one of the world's largest geothermal power producers with a strong US presence. We are also reviewing opportunities to gain exposure to US nuclear power production which should be supported by a projected surge in AI data centre power demand and more favourable government policies.

In terms of other trading activity, we took profits in IHS Towers (African-focused communications infrastructure operator) following a period of strong outperformance.

We invest with a **core focus** on the UN Global Compact Principles

Extensive due diligence across multiple factors to identify sound business fundamentals, accounting for the 10 UNGC principles, where possible

We take a forward-looking approach to investment selection using positive screening

We encourage 'engagement' with both 'leaders' and 'improvers' for positive outcomes

We're committed to transparency on our multi-factor screening process and reflect this in our investment approach

Signatory of:



Top 10 Portfolio Holdings

(as at 31/03/2025)

 GFL Environmental Inc	5.42%
 Equinix Inc	4.57%
 Cellnex Telecom SA	3.86%
 Clearway Energy Inc	3.80%
 American Tower Corp	3.38%
 Ventas Inc	3.33%
 Digital Realty Trust Inc	3.12%
 Crown Castle Inc	3.01%
 HKBN Ltd	2.99%
 Veolia Environnement SA	2.92%

KEY INFORMATION

All data as at 31/03/2025, unless specified otherwise. Blackfinch Asset Management is an appointed representative of Blackfinch Investments Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Registered address: 1350–1360 Montpellier Court, Gloucester Business Park, Gloucester, GL3 4AH. Registered Company in England & Wales under No. 11639647. The IFSL Blackfinch OEIC Sub-Funds are actively managed by Blackfinch Investments Limited. Blackfinch Investments Limited act as the sponsor of the IFSL Blackfinch OEIC Sub-Funds. Capital at risk. All figures are correct at the time of compilation. Any decision to invest in this service should not be based solely on this factsheet but rather made in conjunction with the information contained in the brochure, and the terms and conditions. Prospective investors must rely on their own examination of the legal, taxation, financial and other consequences of investing and the risk involved. Prospective investors should not treat the contents of this factsheet as advice relating to legal, taxation or other matters. If in any doubt about the proposal discussed in this factsheet, its suitability, or what action should be taken, the investor should consult their own professional advisers. Percentage figures may not add up to 100 due to rounding. The expected yield is based upon the underlying holdings. This figure is for information purposes and will not be distributed as cash income.