

# MORANT WRIGHT

## MANAGEMENT LIMITED

43 St James's Place, London, SW1A 1NS  
 Telephone: 020 7499 9980 Email: [enquiries@morantwright.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@morantwright.co.uk) Website: [www.morantwright.co.uk](http://www.morantwright.co.uk)

### WS Morant Wright Nippon Yield Fund January 2026 Newsletter

£ Returns	Month	2025	Since Inception (1 <sup>st</sup> October 2008)
B Accumulation	+6.1%	+29.9%	+954.0%
TOPIX Net Total Return	+4.0%	+16.6%	+294.6%

Sources: Bloomberg and Waystone Management (UK) Limited

TOPIX rose by 4.6% in local terms in January having reached an all-time high during the month, although equities, bonds and the yen were all volatile. Prime Minister Takaichi announced a snap election for February 8<sup>th</sup> on the back of her high approval rate and will campaign on a more expansionary fiscal policy, including a reduction in consumption tax on food to zero for two years. Yields on Japanese government bonds reached their highest levels in nearly three decades, with the 30-year yield approaching 4% at one point. The yen weakened to almost ¥160/\$ before it snapped back sharply because of a "rate check" by the New York Fed and rumours of coordinated intervention.

As anticipated, the Bank of Japan left its policy interest rate unchanged at 0.75% but revised up its growth and inflation forecasts modestly. In December, nationwide core CPI (all items less fresh food) was +2.4% year on year while core-core inflation (all items less energy and fresh food) was +2.9%. The unemployment rate remained low at 2.6% and the ratio of job openings to applicants stood at 1.19x. The number of foreign visitors to Japan rose 3.7% year on year to 3.62m in December, a record high for the month. For 2025 overall, tourist numbers reached a new annual high of 42.7m.

Unlisted Toyota Fudosan raised its tender price for portfolio holding Toyota Industries by 15% to ¥18,800 per share, a bid that is being funded by the Toyota group. In response, activist investor Elliott published a detailed presentation explaining its valuation of over ¥26,000 per share. It believes that the company could eventually be worth more than double the bid price through governance reforms and unwinding cross-shareholdings, and has increased its stake in the company to 6.7%. We held meetings with both Elliott and Toyota Industries to discuss the revised offer, which we continue to believe undervalues the shares.

Another of our holdings, Canon Marketing, reported excellent full-year results ahead of expectations driven by its expanding and high-margin IT solutions business. The company raised its dividend and announced another share buyback worth almost 5% of shares outstanding. This follows significant progress in corporate governance over the last two years, including buying back over 20% of its shares to reduce Canon's stake and ending the practice of keeping cash on deposit at the parent company. Elsewhere, Sankei Real Estate Investment Corp., a Fuji Media-affiliated REIT, received a takeover offer at a 21% premium, with Fuji Media agreeing to sell its 5% stake. As part of a restructuring of non-core businesses, Kyocera announced it will sell its chemical business to Sumitomo Bakelite for ¥30bn.

Following a record number of management buyouts (MBOs) last year, Hisamitsu Pharmaceutical, best known for pain-relief patches, announced an MBO at a 35% premium to the closing price. Ariake Capital disclosed another large shareholding in a regional bank, this time Hyakugo Bank, highlighting the value in a sector where, in some cases, equity portfolios can be worth a significant portion of the banks' market capitalisations.

The Financial Services Agency (FSA) will revise the Corporate Governance Code in mid-2026 for the first time in five years. One of the main areas under consideration will be company disclosures regarding plans for the efficient use of cash. This will focus attention on many of the companies in our portfolio, where net cash and investments still represent over 30% of the market capitalisation of our non-financial holdings. We have significant holdings in the financial, industrial and construction sectors.

**Stephen Morant, Ian Wright, Richard Phillips, Tom Mermagen, Andrew Millward,  
 Denis Clough, Nick Sinclair and Karin Ri**

Fund	
Fund size	£1,015m
Number of holdings	65

Valuations	
Average PBR	1.13
Median EV/OP* (3/26e)	9.6
Weighted Average P/E (3/26e)	14.8
Net cash as % of market cap*	33%

\*Net cash (including investment securities) and EV/OP figures exclude financials

Top Ten Holdings	% Fund
Yokohama Financial Group	3.5
Sumitomo Mitsui Trust	3.5
Inpex	3.4
Sumitomo Mitsui Financial Group	3.3
Dai-ichi Life Holdings	3.1
Honda Motor	3.0
Sumitomo Electric Industries	2.9
Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group	2.7
NHK Spring	2.6
Iyogin Holdings	2.5

Market Cap Breakdown*	% Fund
Large Cap (>\$10b)	38.1
Mid Cap (\$2b - \$10b)	43.8
Small Cap (< \$2b)	17.3
Cash	0.8

\*Size categories have been changed as of December 2025 in line with market standards

NAV as at 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	
B Accumulation	1,015.43p
B Income	649.38p

**Dealing**  
 If you would like to deal in the fund please contact Waystone Management (UK) Limited. Their telephone number is 0345 922 0044 and their email is [wtaas-Electronic.Dealing@waystone.com](mailto:wtaas-Electronic.Dealing@waystone.com)

**Please refer to the further fund details and important regulatory information on the reverse of this document**

Fund Information		Dealing Information	
Fund type	UK authorised OEIC	Minimum investment	£5,000
Fund currency	Sterling	Dealing frequency	Daily
Launch date	October 2008	Deal cut-off point	12pm
Geographic exposure	100% Japanese equities	Valuation point	12pm
AMF	1.0%	Settlement	T+4 (subscriptions/redemptions)
OCF	1.14%	ACD	Waystone Management (UK) Limited
Share types	Accumulation and Income	Fund administrator	Waystone Fund Administrators Limited Central Square 29 Wellington Square Leeds, LS1 4DL <a href="mailto:wtas-investorservices@waystone.com">wtas-investorservices@waystone.com</a> Tel: 0345 922 0044 Fax: 0113 224 6001

Share Identifiers	Bloomberg code	SEDOL	ISIN
B Accumulation	CFMWNBA LN	B42MKS9	GB00B42MKS95
B Income	CFMWNYB LN	B2R83B2	GB00B2R83B20

Performance (%)	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	Since inception (1 <sup>st</sup> October 2008)
B Accumulation Shares	+19.4	+18.9	+8.8	+11.6	-5.9	+11.9	+954.0%
TOPIX Net Total Return	+10.1	+12.3	-5.0	+1.9	+9.1	+15.2	+294.6%

TOPIX Net Total Return is used for the purpose of performance comparison only as it is a widely used benchmark which includes reinvestment of dividends (net of withholding tax) and which most closely reflects the type of companies in which the fund invests. All performance information is calculated by Morant Wright Management Limited using share price data provided by Waystone Management (UK) Limited. Index data are taken from Bloomberg. Performance is given in sterling terms based on the Fund NAV. Data are as at 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and accurate as at that date.

## Dividends

Ex-Dividend Date	31 Oct 2020	30 Apr 2021	31 Oct 2021	30 Apr 2022	31 Oct 2022	30 Apr 2023	31 Oct 2023	30 Apr 2024	31 Oct 2024	30 Apr 2025	31 Oct 2025
Dividend per 'B' Income Share	4.1192	5.8480	5.0278	6.8290	5.631	7.0071	5.7134	7.0283	7.5343	8.8519	8.1266

This document is issued and approved by Morant Wright Management Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

## Disclaimer

Please remember that past performance is not a guide to future performance. The value of the Fund and any income from it can fall as well as rise as a result of both market and currency fluctuations and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. Investors must be willing to accept some risk to their capital. Consequently, the fund may be suitable for investors who are looking to set aside their capital for the longer term (i.e. at least 5 years).

Before making an investment in the Fund you must read the KIID which can be obtained from Waystone Management (UK) Limited (<https://www.fundsolutions.net/uk/morant-wright-management-limited/ws-morant-wright-nippon-yield-fund/ws-morant-wright-nippon-yield-fund/>) or ourselves, along with the Fund Prospectus and the latest report and accounts.

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