

Meeting of Minds Gatekeepers

Thursday 1 October 2026, The Berkeley Hotel, London, SW1X 7RL

Schedule of the Day

The Belgravia	0815-0900	Breakfast	Informal networking over breakfast
The Ballroom	0900-0920	Keynote	Welcome - incorporating the highlights of the Scene Setter research. With James Goad , Managing Director at Owen James Events
The Ballroom	0920-1000	Keynote	A World in Transition: Markets, politics and the future of wealth
Boardrooms	1005-1105	Roundtable Session	<i>Please refer below to get a feel for the topics that will be tabled for discussion within the roundtables</i>
The Belgravia	1105-1130	Morning Coffee	Informal networking with your peers
The Ballroom	1130-1200	Structured Networking	Our version of speed networking offering the opportunity to meet some new faces
Boardrooms	1205-1305	Roundtable Session	<i>Please refer below to get a feel for the topics that will be tabled for discussion within the roundtables</i>
The Ballroom	1305-1355	Lunch	A seated formal two-course lunch
Boardrooms	1400-1500	Roundtable Session	<i>Please refer below to get a feel for the topics that will be tabled for discussion within the roundtables</i>
The Ballroom	1505-1535	Keynote	Winning Behaviours: From disruption to opportunity in a changing world
The Belgravia	1535-1700	Farewell and Networking	With a glass of fizz on the side

A MEETING OF MINDS GATEKEEPERS ROUNDTABLE THEMES

Thursday 1 October 2026 at The Berkeley Hotel, London

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ROUNDTABLE THEMES TABLED FOR DISCUSSION

As complexity increases, Gatekeepers are having to make harder decisions about where value is created, where risk is hidden and how investment propositions evolve for tomorrow's clients.

This agenda explores five key questions:

1. Where will future returns come from? Geopolitical fragmentation, US concentration and shifting market leadership.

2. What does true diversification look like now? Building resilient portfolios across public markets, private markets and alternative sources of return.

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3. How does active management prove its value? Identifying genuine skill as passive adoption, fee pressure and technology reshape selection.

4. How will AI change investment decision-making? Moving from efficiency gains to competitive advantage in research, analysis and portfolio construction.

5. How must propositions evolve for the future investor? Responding to changing demographics, personalisation and client expectations.

GEOPOLITICS & ECONOMICS

1. The new investment regime: Building portfolios in a world of geopolitical uncertainty

With fragmentation, protectionism and policy uncertainty redefining investment assumptions, Gatekeepers must consider how portfolios are positioned for a less predictable world.

This session will explore:

- How geopolitical risk should influence strategic asset allocation.
- Whether traditional diversification still provides enough protection.
- How investors identify regional winners and losers.
- The impact of changing global relationships on equities, bonds and currencies.
- How to build resilient portfolios without relying on predictions.

2. Beyond US exceptionalism: Finding tomorrow's sources of return

US markets have dominated global returns for more than a decade, driven by technology leadership, innovation and earnings growth. However, rising concentration and changing valuations are creating renewed debate around whether this dominance can continue.

This session will explore:

- Whether US exceptionalism is structural or cyclical.
- The risks created by increasing market concentration.
- Where future growth opportunities may emerge.
- Whether Europe, Asia, emerging markets or smaller companies offer overlooked value.
- How Gatekeepers should think about global equity allocation.

3. The great portfolio reset: Managing concentration, correlation and unintended risk

After years of strong market performance, many portfolios may contain more hidden risk than investors realise. From mega-cap dominance to crowded exposures, understanding what investors truly own has become increasingly complex.

This session will explore:

- How to identify unintended portfolio risks.
- Whether traditional diversification measures remain effective.
- Managing exposure to crowded markets and themes.
- How technology and analytics can improve portfolio oversight.

- Building portfolios that behave as expected during stress events.

4. Income without illusion: Finding yield without hidden risk

The return of yield has transformed the investment landscape, but higher income opportunities also bring new questions around credit quality, liquidity and sustainability.

This session will explore:

- Where attractive risk-adjusted income opportunities remain.
- Public versus private credit allocations.
- Avoiding hidden liquidity and concentration risks.
- How fixed income portfolios should evolve in a changing rate environment.
- Balancing income generation with capital preservation.

5. The end of easy returns: What will drive performance in the next market cycle?

The investment environment that supported markets over the last decade has fundamentally changed. Higher rates, geopolitical fragmentation and shifting economic leadership mean investors may need to rethink assumptions around future returns.

This session will explore:

- The key forces shaping the next decade of performance.
- Whether previous market winners will continue to lead.
- The role of valuation discipline in a changing environment.
- Where managers are finding overlooked opportunities.
- How long-term capital market assumptions are evolving.

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

6. The AI-powered investment team: Where will humans still create an edge?

AI is moving from experimentation to integration across investment research, analysis and decision-making. As these capabilities become increasingly available, differentiation may depend less on access to technology and more on how effectively it is applied.

This session will explore:

- How AI is changing research, due diligence and manager selection.
- Whether AI creates alpha or improves efficiency.
- How Gatekeepers assess managers' use of AI.
- The importance of proprietary data and human judgement.
- What the investment team of the future looks like.

7. The future of fund selection: How the Gatekeeper role is changing

The role of the Gatekeeper is evolving as technology, passive investing, regulation and increasing investment complexity reshape manager selection.

This session will explore:

- How fund research teams need to adapt.
- Balancing quantitative analysis with qualitative judgement.
- Managing an expanding universe of funds, ETFs and private assets.
- How AI and automation support ongoing monitoring.
- What asset managers need to demonstrate to remain relevant.

8. Tokenisation and liquidity: A structural upgrade for portfolio construction?

Digital infrastructure has the potential to transform how assets are accessed, traded and managed. While the opportunity is significant, questions remain around adoption, regulation and whether tokenisation solves genuine investment challenges.

This session will explore:

- How tokenisation could change investment access.
- The potential impact on liquidity and operational efficiency.
- Where adoption is most likely to accelerate.
- Separating long-term opportunity from short-term hype.
- Implications for future portfolio construction.

9. Product innovation or product proliferation? Cutting through complexity

The investment universe continues to expand, with new vehicles, structures and solutions offering greater choice than ever before. However, innovation only creates value if it solves a genuine client need.

This session will explore:

- Which product innovations are changing portfolio construction.
- The growth of active ETFs and outcome-based solutions.
- How Gatekeepers assess new investment structures.
- Managing complexity under Consumer Duty expectations.
- Distinguishing innovation from unnecessary choice.

PRODUCT & PROPOSITION

10. The battle for alpha: Can active management prove its value in the next cycle?

Fee pressure and passive adoption continue to challenge active management, yet greater dispersion, volatility and market disruption may create new opportunities for skilled managers.

This session will explore:

- Where active management has the strongest opportunity to outperform.
- How selectors identify genuine skill.
- Whether traditional performance measurement remains appropriate.
- How active managers demonstrate value for money.
- The future balance between active and passive.

11. From asset allocation to outcome allocation: Rebuilding multi-asset for a new cycle

Traditional asset allocation frameworks are being challenged by changing correlations, higher rates and evolving client expectations. The focus is shifting from asset labels towards the outcomes portfolios are designed to achieve.

This session will explore:

- Whether strategic asset allocation needs to evolve.
- The changing role of equities and bonds.
- How to combine traditional and alternative assets.
- Designing portfolios around client objectives.
- The future role of multi-asset solutions.

12. Private markets enter the mainstream: Solving the implementation challenge

Private markets are becoming increasingly accessible to a wider range of investors, but implementation remains complex. The challenge is moving beyond access towards appropriate allocation, governance and client suitability.

This session will explore:

- The role private assets should play in client portfolios.
- Managing liquidity and valuation challenges.
- How semi-liquid structures are evolving.
- Comparing opportunities across public and private markets.
- Building governance frameworks around alternative assets.

13. The democratisation of private markets: Opportunity or complexity?

As private market access expands beyond institutions, investors must consider whether broader availability genuinely improves client outcomes or introduces new risks.

This session will explore:

- Whether private markets should become a core portfolio allocation.
- How suitability differs across client segments.
- Education and communication challenges.
- Balancing access, transparency and liquidity.
- What mainstream adoption requires.

14. The next gen investment proposition: Building portfolios for tomorrow's wealth holders

Changing demographics, wealth transfer and evolving investor expectations are reshaping what clients need from investment propositions.

This session will explore:

- How future investors define value.
- The role of personalisation in investment solutions.
- Balancing scalable propositions with individual outcomes.
- Meeting the expectations of women and next-generation wealth holders.
- How investment communication needs to evolve.

15. Active ETFs: The next battleground for fund selectors?

The rapid growth of active ETFs is challenging traditional fund structures and creating new opportunities for portfolio implementation.

This session will explore:

- What is driving demand for active ETFs.
- How selectors compare ETFs with traditional funds.
- Where active ETFs add genuine value.
- Cost, liquidity and transparency considerations.
- The future of fund delivery.

16. Sustainable investing after the reset: What role does ESG play now?

After a period of rapid growth and increased scrutiny, sustainable investing is entering a more mature phase focused on evidence, outcomes and client alignment.

This session will explore:

- How ESG expectations are changing.
- Moving beyond labels towards measurable outcomes.
- Balancing financial objectives with sustainability preferences.
- Regulatory and reputational considerations.
- The future role of impact and sustainable strategies.