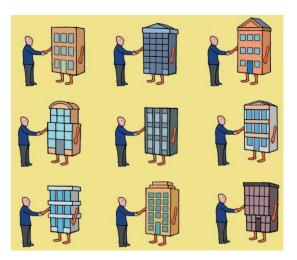
UK Smaller Companies Investment Trust PLC ("MUSCIT") 2022 - 2023 Annual Review Webinar

13 June 2023

"No one knows Smaller Companies like we do"







Montanaro Asset Management Ltd

53 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8AR

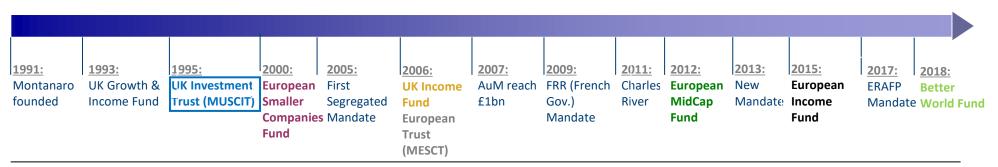
www.montanaro.co.uk enquiries@montanaro.co.uk Tel: +44 (0)20 7448 8600

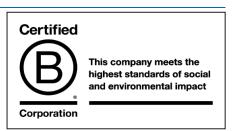
Follow us on LinkedIn: @MontanaroAssetManagement in Follow us on Twitter: @MontanaroAMy



History of Montanaro

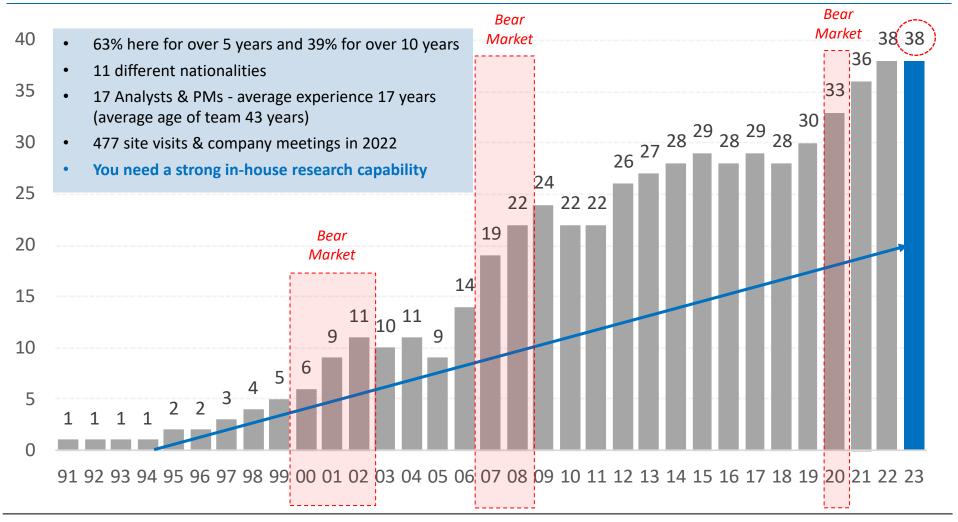
- Established in 1991
- Specialists in quoted, global Small & MidCap equities
- "Quality Growth" investors
- AUM of around £4 billion
- "Best Small & MidCap Sustainable Investment Boutique" * both Trusts MSCI "AA" rated
- One of the Largest Small & MidCap Teams in Europe







The team has grown to 38 including 17 Analysts





What is a "Montanaro" company?

- Established, focused business we can understand
- 2. Delivering "must have" goods or services in a structural growth market
- 3. Strong market position high barriers to entry / pricing power
- 4. High returns on capital and margins strong balance sheet / cashflow
- 5. Good management with sound corporate governance
- 6. One we can hold for the long-term



We are "Quality Growth" Investors



MUSCIT

1	Objective:	To achieve <u>capital growth</u> in excess of the benchmark, the Numis Smaller Companies (ex-IC) index
2	Strategy:	Quoted UK SmallCap (AIM: maximum 40%)
3	Fund Manager:	Charles Montanaro / Guido Dacie-Lombardo (Back-up)
4	Exclusions:	Tobacco; Alcohol; Weapons; Adult Entertainment; Gambling; High-interest Rate Lending; Fossil Fuels E&P, Animal Testing*
5	Style:	"Quality Growth"
6	Holdings:	Target 30 - 40
7	Size:	£200 million
8	Charges:	FY22 Ongoing Charge: 0.8% (Management Fee: 0.5% p.a.**)
9	Dividends:	1% of NAV each quarter (March, June, September, December)

Source: Internal.

^{*} Animal Testing is permitted only where required by law for human healthcare purposes.

^{**} Based on Gross Assets.



Top 20 holdings

Company	Country	%	Company	Country	%
4Imprint	UK	7.2%	Ergomed	UK	3.0%
Games Workshop	UK	4.8%	Watches of Switzerland	UK	3.0%
Greggs	UK	4.5%	Porvair	UK	3.0%
Diploma	UK	3.8%	Boku	UK	2.9%
Clarkson	UK	3.8%	Judges Scientific	UK	2.9%
discoverIE	UK	3.8%	Liontrust Asset Management	UK	2.8%
Kainos	UK	3.8%	Dechra Pharmaceuticals	UK	2.6%
Big Yellow	UK	3.6%	Cerillion	UK	2.6%
Tracsis	UK	3.6%	Cranswick	UK	2.6%
Marshalls	UK	3.5%	YouGov	UK	2.3%
Top 10		42.5%	Top 11 - 20		27.7%



Our companies continue to trade well and are generally positive

4Imprint:

- Four upgrades during 2022, with sales +45% and EBIT +236% strong recovery, taking share
- 2023 off to solid start order intake +23% vs 2022 in first four months

Diploma:

- Strong H1 (sales +30%, of which 10% organic; EBIT +33%); upgrading guidance for FY Sep-23
- Equity placing in Mar 2023 to provide firepower for large M&A pipeline

Judges Scientific:

- 2022 sales +24% of which organic +8%; EBIT +60% margin expansion (Geotek acquisition)
- 2023 begins with record order book & solid organic order intake growth in first two months

DiscoverIE:

- 2022 sales +18% (10% organic), EBIT +25% and eps +20%; free cashflow +51%
- Two earnings accretive deals Magnasphere and CDT; strong order book more deals to come

Also: Dechra (bid), Boku and Games Workshop (Amazon deals), more share buybacks etc



4Imprint (promotional products)





- 4imprint is the leading direct marketer of promotional products,
 primarily in North America, as well as the UK & Ireland
- Promotional products are used for marketing & employee loyalty
- Tens of thousands of products available from pens, bags and drinkware to embroidered apparel
- Highly fragmented market market leader with c. 4% share
- Track record of taking share through the cycle due to continued, targeted investment in marketing (combination of brand, search and catalogue)
- Asset-lite ('drop-ship' model): results in high returns, strong cash generation and a net cash position
- 5 Year EPS & DPS CAGR of 23% and 22% respectively









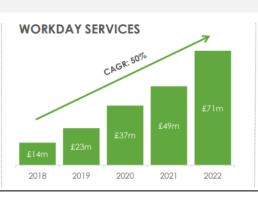


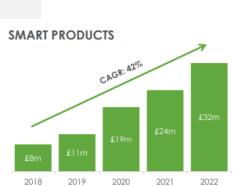
Kainos (IT Services)





- Established provider of digital services to the UK Government
- >300 citizen-government interactions to be digitised
- Kainos developed systems for passport renewal, Register to Vote, viewing driver records online etc.
- Also, Kainos is one of largest implementation partners for Workday Inc – major US software player
- Long-term customer relationships; high repeat revenue
- 5 Year **EPS** Growth of c. 32% p.a.; c. 60% payout ratio















































Shopify

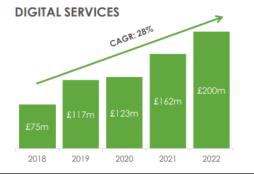


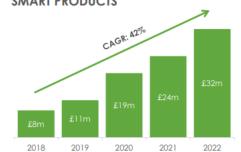














Key Buys & Sells: 12 months to 31 March 2023

BUYS	(£m)	SELLS	(£m)
Dechra Pharmaceuticals	5.3	Ideagen Taken over	- 11.2
Marshalls	4.1	Treatt	- 4.6
Games Workshop	3.9	Biffa Taken over	- 4.3
Spirent	3.9	Alliance Pharma	- 2.5
Diploma	3.7	AJ Bell	- 2.1
Genuit	2.8	Craneware	- 2.0
Greggs	2.6	Focusrite	- 2.0
LondonMetric Property	1.9	SDI	- 2.0
Big Technologies	1.3	Judges Scientific	- 1.7
Watches of Switzerland	1.2	Avon Rubber	- 1.4

New Buys (Total: 2)

Full Sales (Total: 12)



What worked and what didn't: (12 months to 31 March 2023)

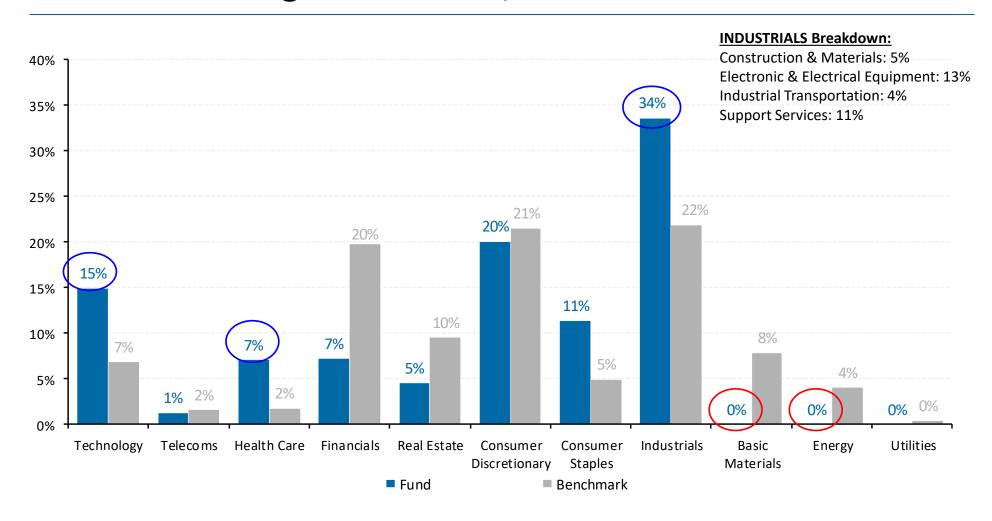
POSITIVE	Top 5
4imprint	2.5%
Ideagen Taken over	1.9%
Games Workshop	1.3%
Cerillion	1.0%
Greggs	0.9%
TOTAL	7.6%

TOTAL	-5.3%
Hilton Food	-0.8%
Frontier Developments	-0.8%
NCC	-0.9%
Treatt	-1.3%
Marshalls	-1.5%
NEGATIVE	Bottom 5

Traded on AIM

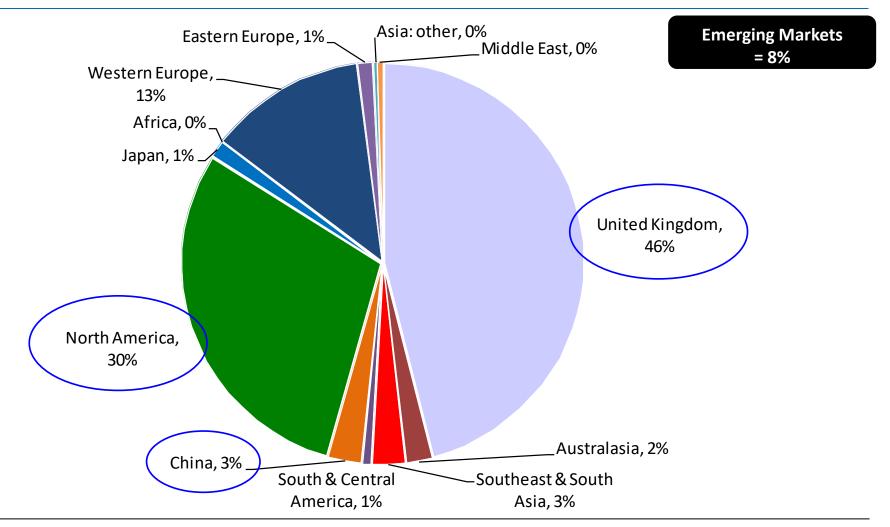


Sectors: overweight Industrials, IT & Health Care



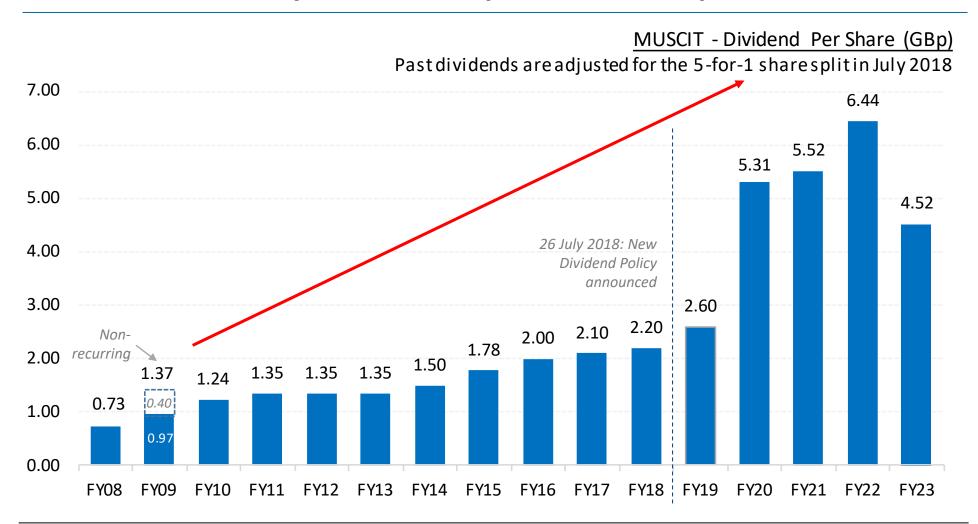


Sales by Country



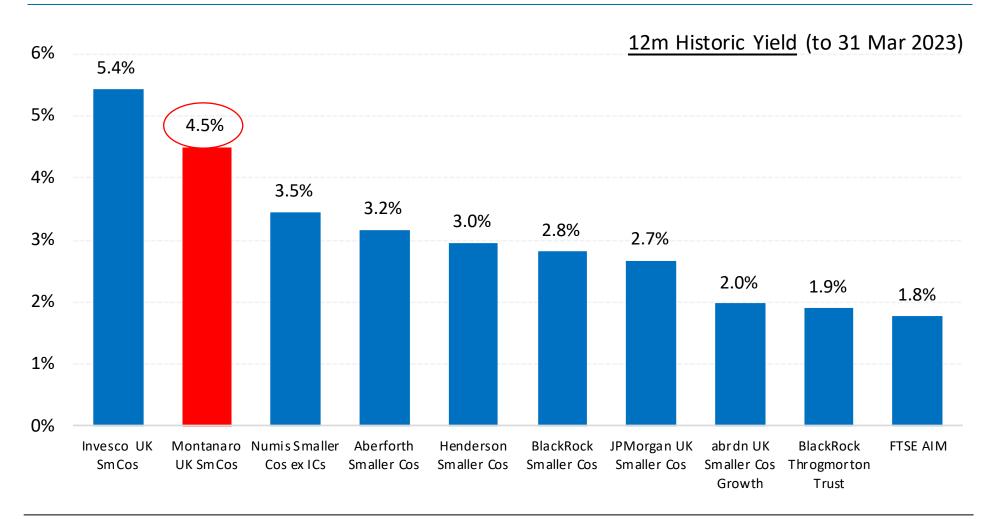


Our Dividend Policy: 1% of NAV paid out each quarter





MUSCIT has one of the highest yields within its peer group





Our dividend policy has helped keep the discount under control





Performance & Outlook

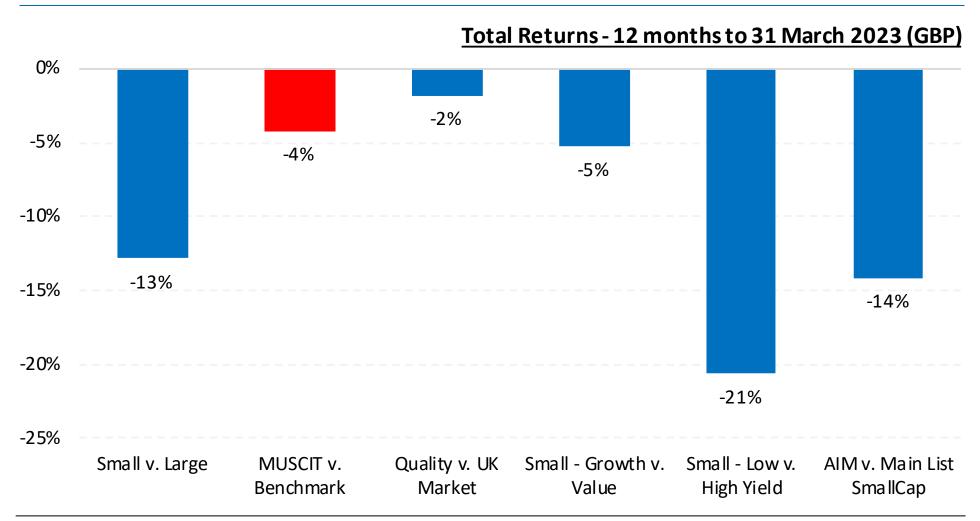


Returns

(T	MUSCIT (NAV)	MUSCIT (Share Price)	Benchmark (Composite, TR)	Relative	
(Total Returns, GBP)				NAV	Share Price
1 Year	-12.1%	-12.4%	-7.9%	-4.2%	-4.5%
5 Years p.a.	0.5%	3.1%	2.0%	-1.5%	1.1%
10 Years p.a.	3.6%	5.0%	6.1%	-2.5%	-1.0%
20 Years p.a.	10.4%	11.7%	8.2%	2.2%	3.4%
Launch p.a. (March 1995)	8.2%	8.3%	6.6%	1.6%	1.7%



Everything worked against MUSCIT during the Financial Year

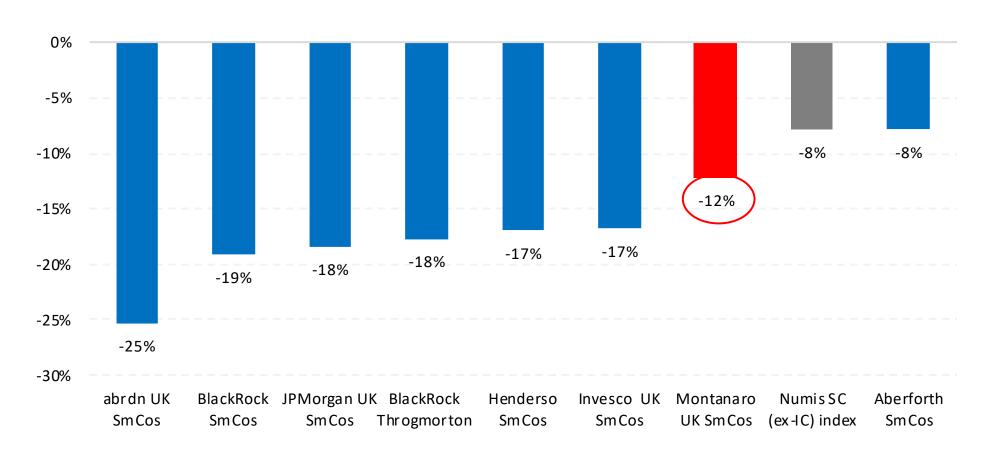


Source: Internal, Numis.



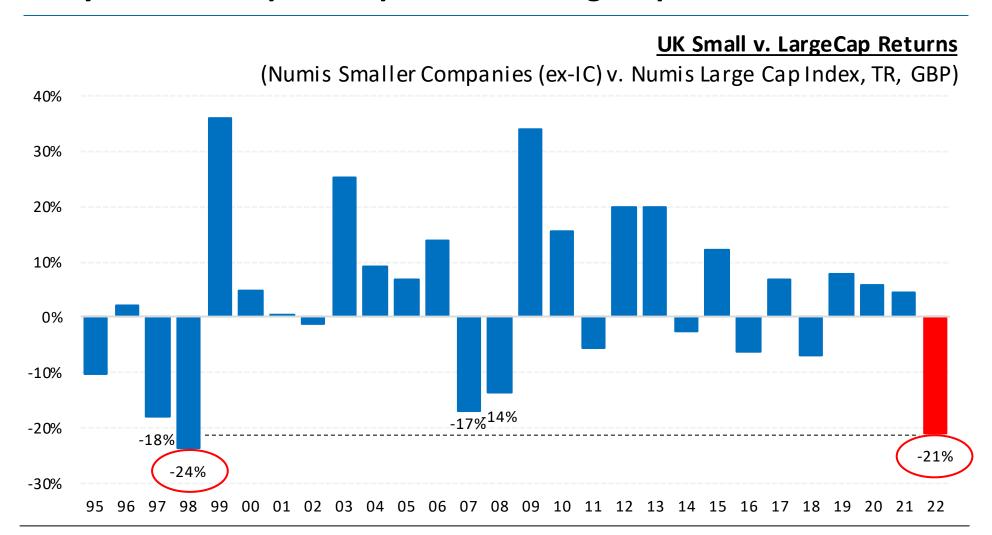
MUSCIT was still the second best performer in the peer group

NAV Total Returns - 12 months to 31 March 2023



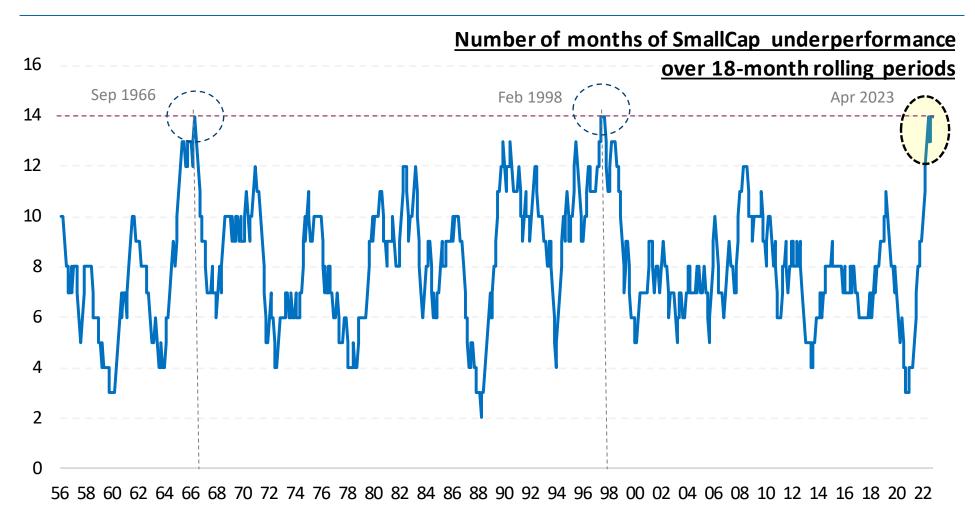


Last year SmallCap underperformed LargeCap the most since 1998



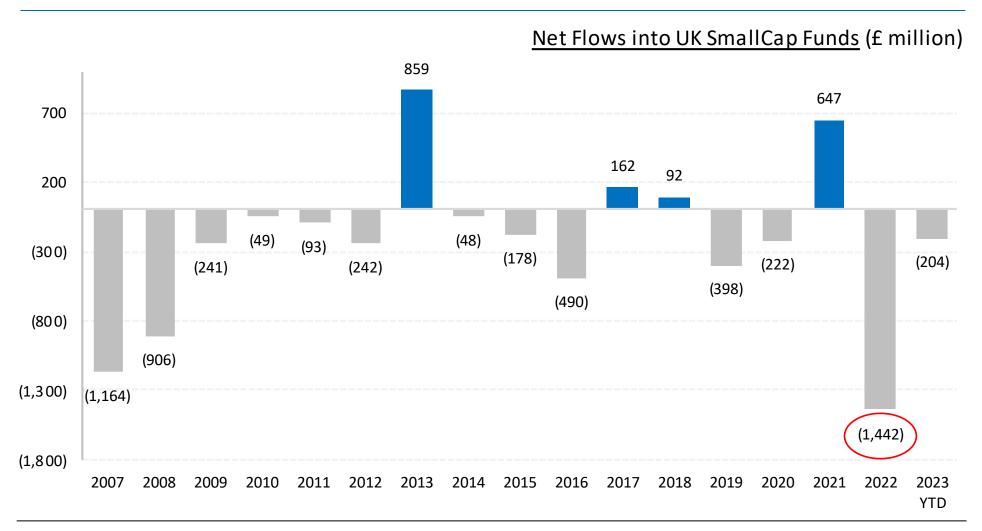


... and it has underperformed in 14 of the past 18 months – a record



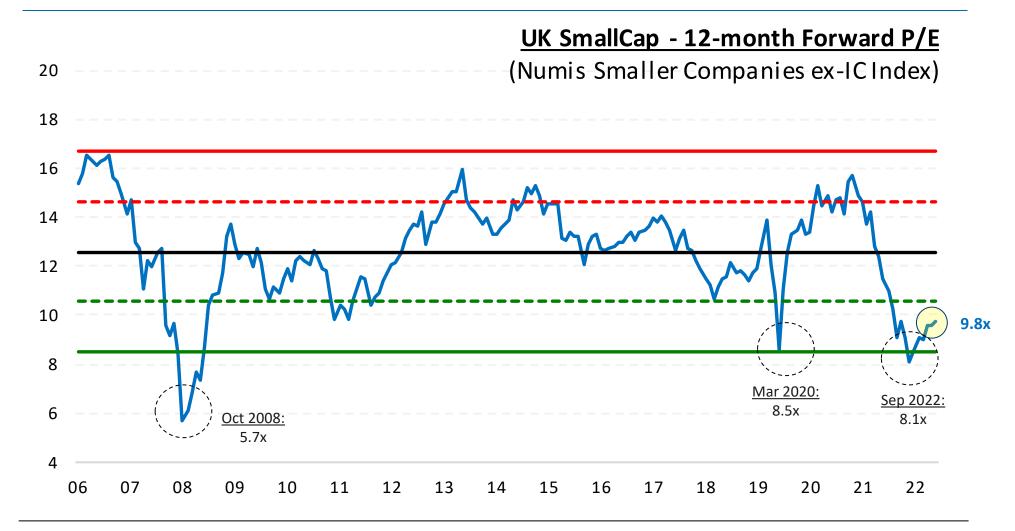


Outflows from UK SmallCap reached record levels in 2022



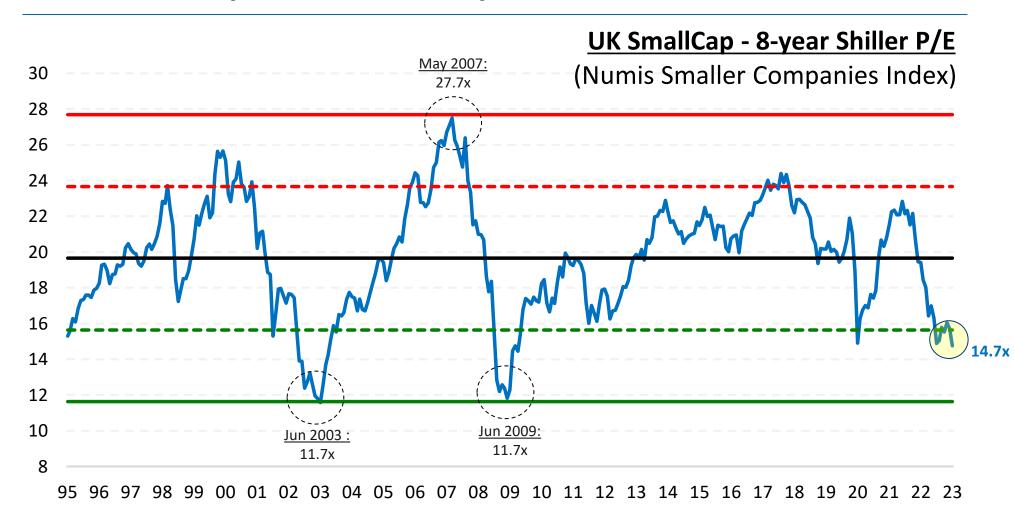


UK SmallCap is now near the bottom of its historical P/E range



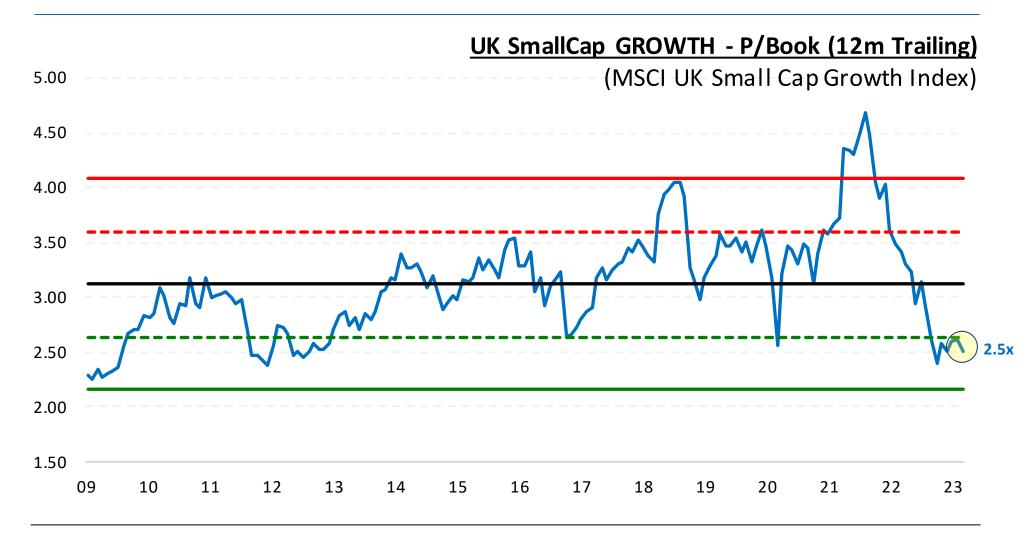


... and at a 13-year low on an 8-year Shiller P/E



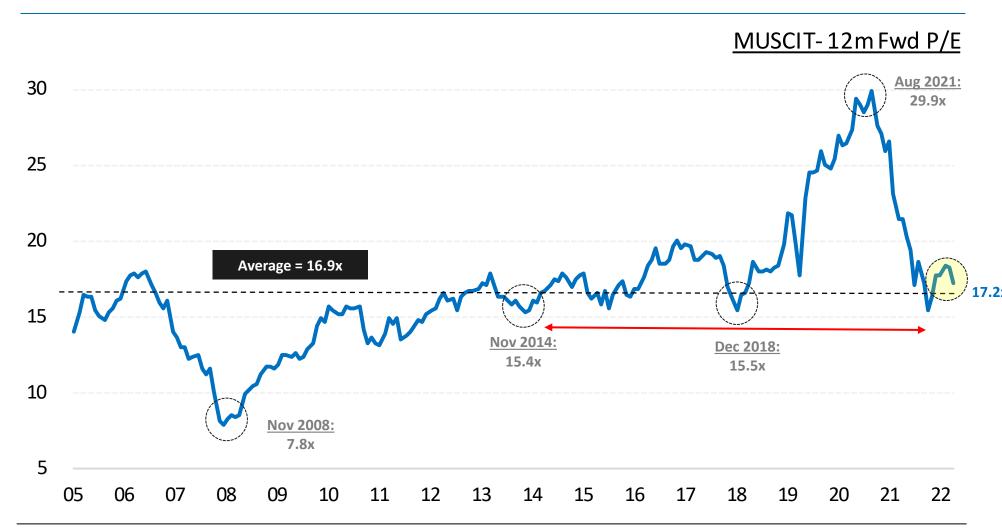


Meanwhile, SmallCap Growth is trading at a 10-year low



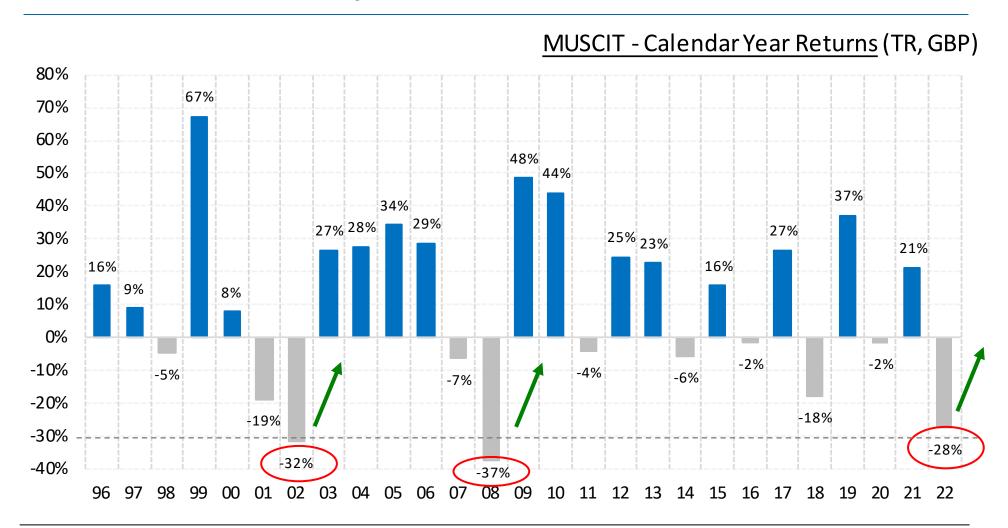


MUSCIT is trading close to its long-term average P/E





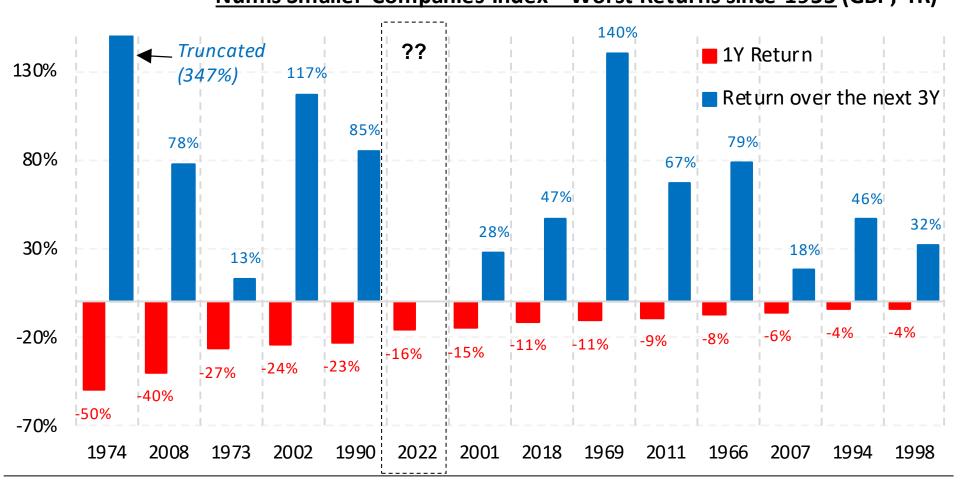
2022 was the 3rd worst year ever for MUSCIT





Fortunately, good years typically follow bad years for UK SmallCap

Numis Smaller Companies Index - Worst Returns since 1955 (GBP, TR)

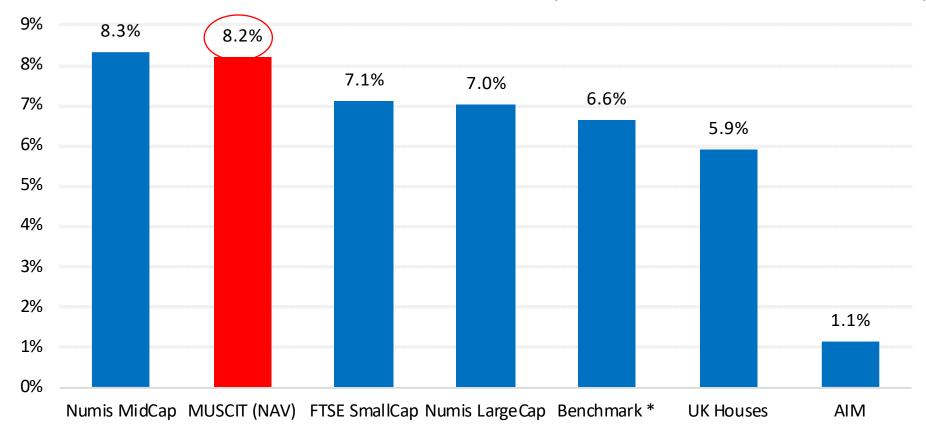


Source: Internal, MSCI, Bloomberg.



MUSCIT has grown its NAV at 8.2% p.a. since launch (after fees)

Annualised Return since MUSCIT Launch (31 March 1995, all Total Returns in GBP)

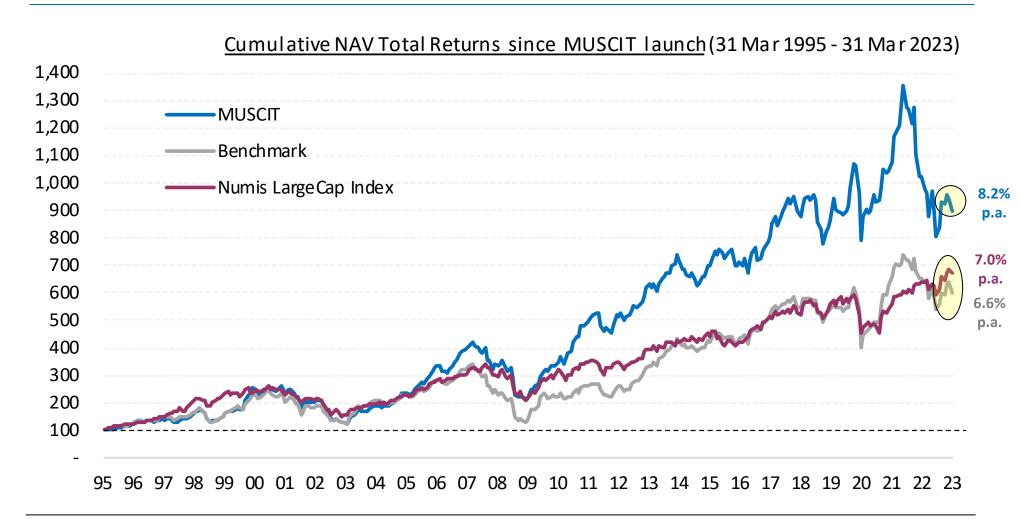


Source: Internal, Bloomberg, Nationwide (house prices). Note: All returns include dividends reinvested except House Prices.

^{*} The benchmark for MUSCIT changed from the FTSE SmallCap Index (ex-IC) to the Numis Smaller Companies Index (ex-IC) effective 1 April 2013. The benchmark shown here is a composite of the two.



MUSCIT has performed well since launch over 27 years ago





Conclusions

- 1. A tough financial year (ending March 2023):
 - SmallCap, Growth, Quality and AIM all underperformed
- 2. Style headwinds may be ending
- 3. Expect few changes to the portfolio
- 4. UK SmallCap valuations are increasingly attractive more M&A likely:
 - takeover announced in April 2023 of Dechra (47% premium)
- 5. MUSCIT is trading on an 8% discount potential for re-rating



Appendix

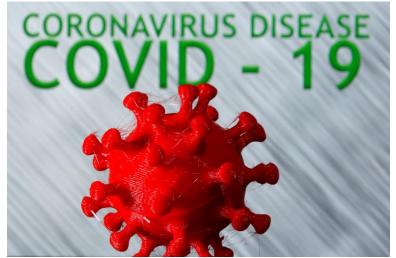
- 1) What happens next?
 - 2) MUSCIT
 - 3) Montanaro
- 4) Philosophy & Process
- 5) Why Invest in UK SmallCap?



What happens next?



We are emerging from an extremely turbulent period







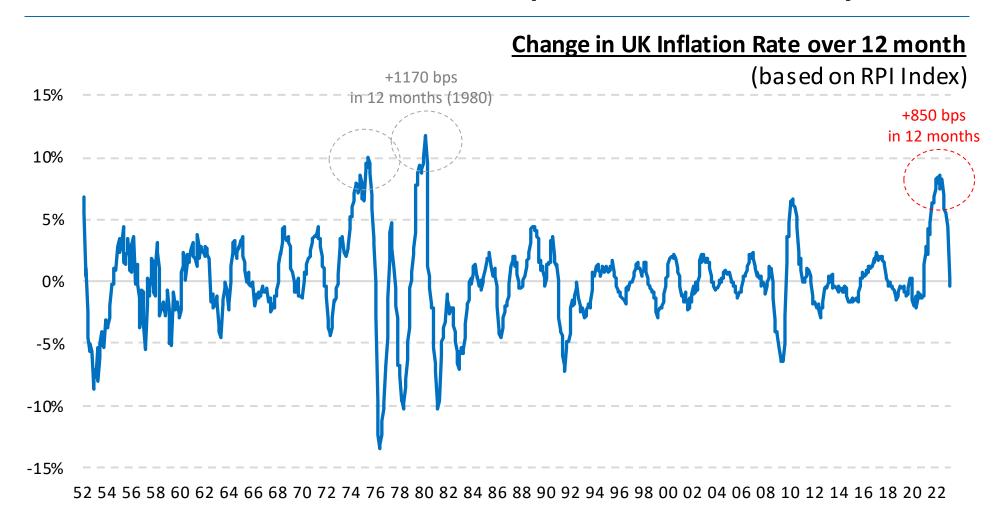






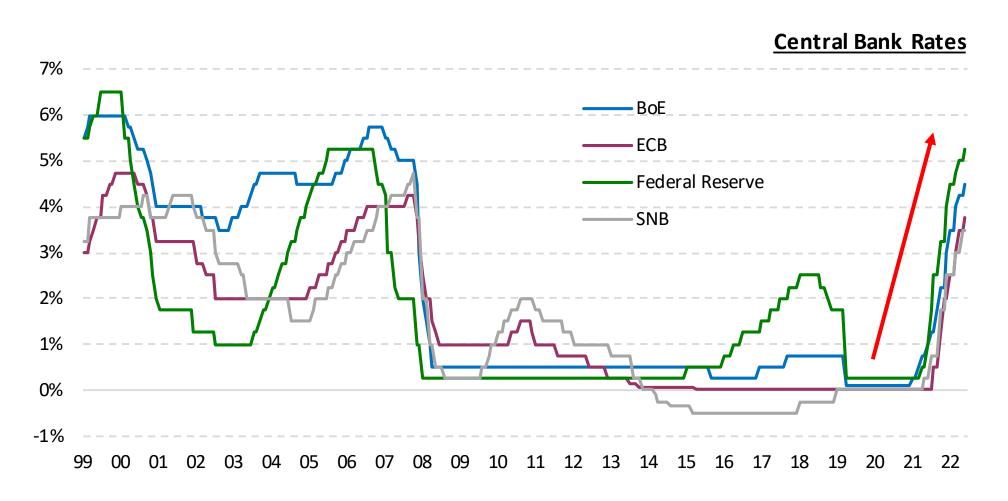


Inflation has climbed at the fastest pace in more than 40 years



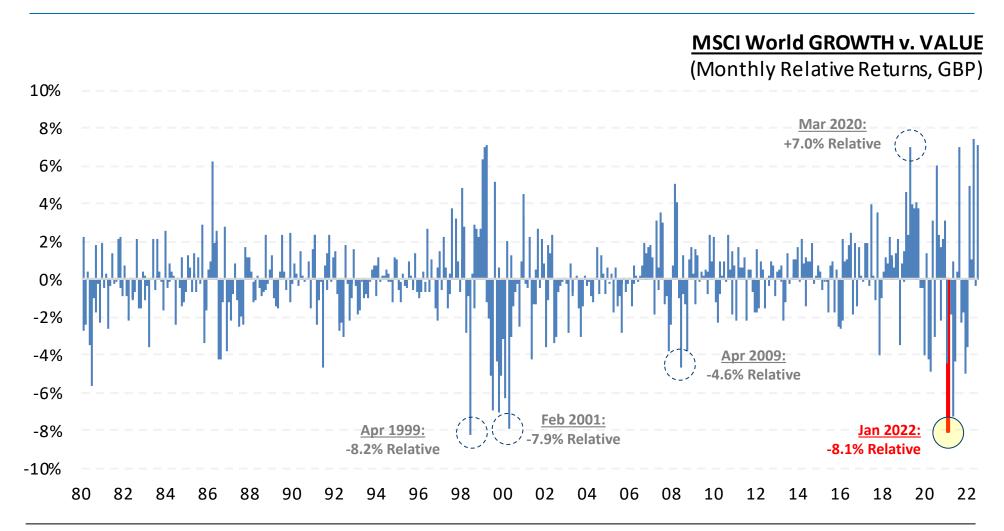


Central banks have been raising interest rates at a very rapid pace



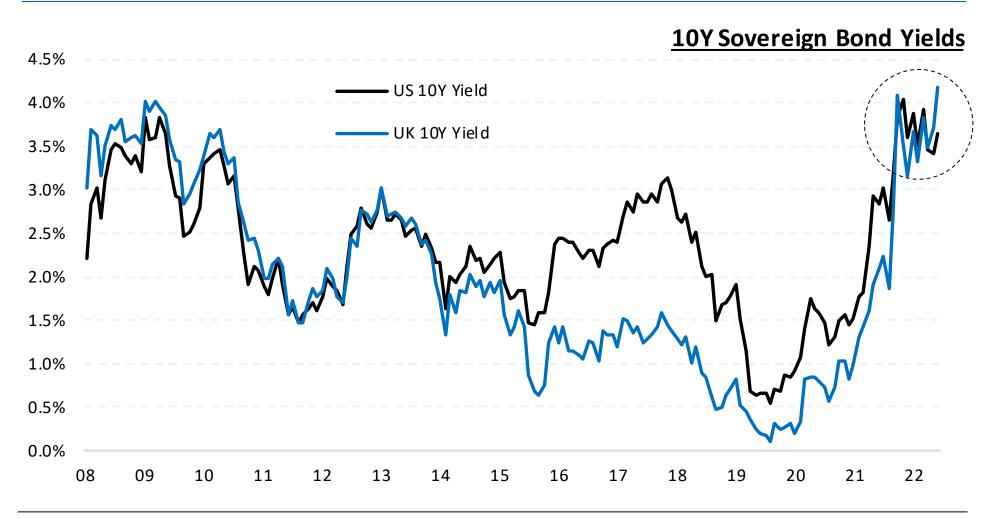


Jan 2022 saw the 2nd biggest rotation globally into Value in 50 Yrs



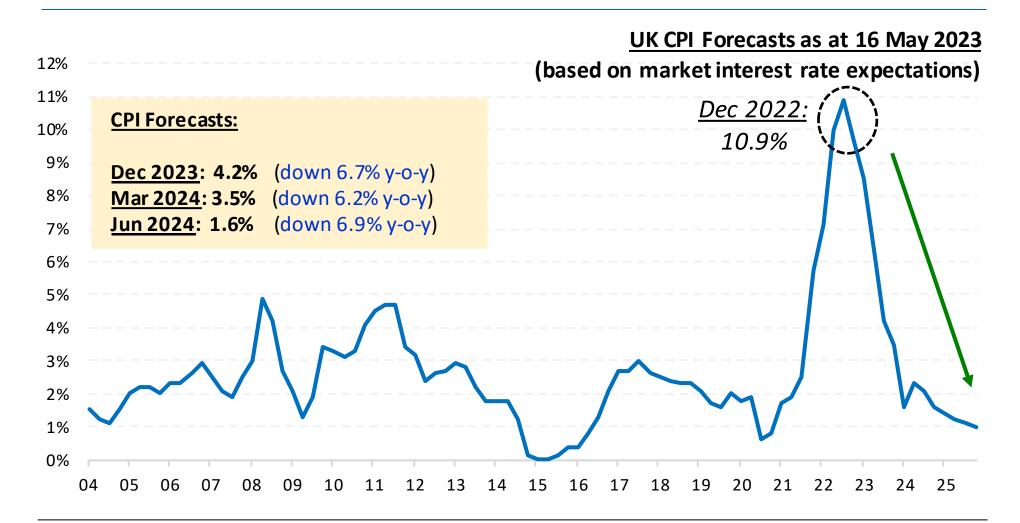


BUT: bond yields have stabilised over the past 9 months



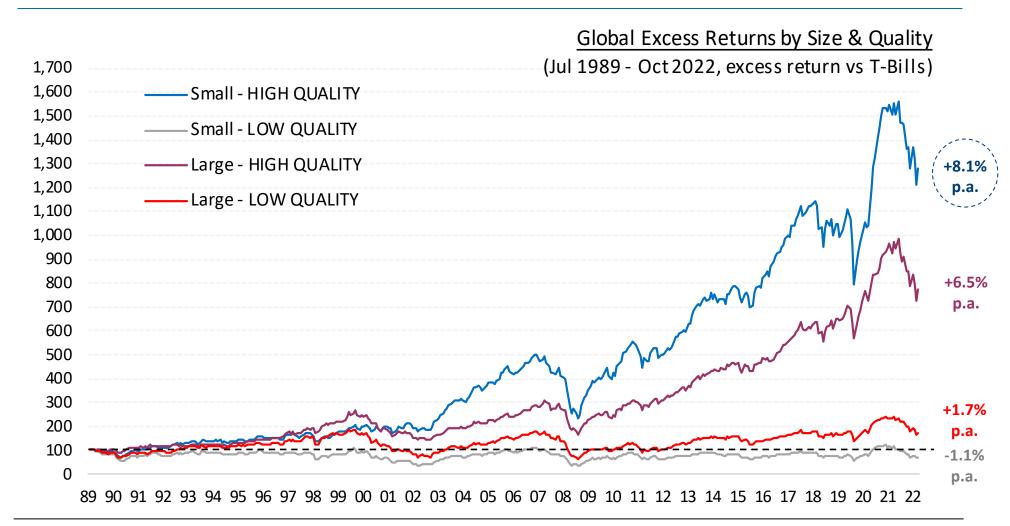


... and inflation could move from headwind to tailwind





"Quality Growth" has delivered the best returns historically

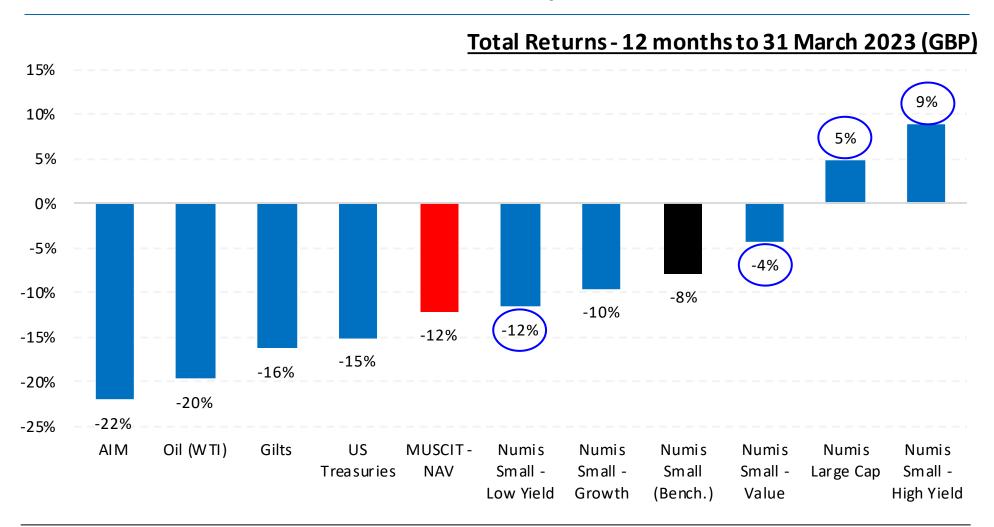




MUSCIT



MUSCIT matched the Numis SmallCap Low Yield index





A portfolio of High Growth companies with strong balance sheets

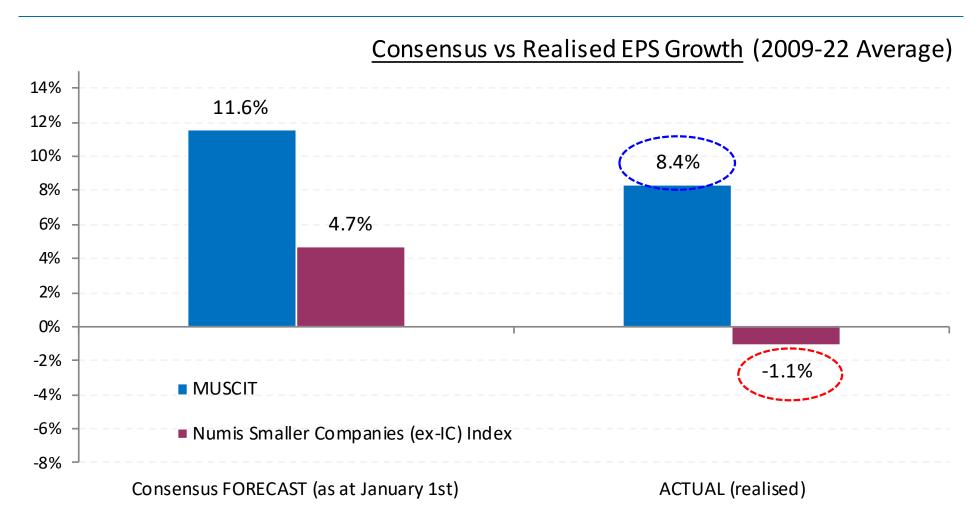
Portfolio Characteristics											
	MUSCIT	Numis SmallCap (ex-IC) Index									
# Stocks	40	345									
Weighted Market Cap (£bn)	1.2	1.0									
EBIT Margin (23F)	22%	18%									
RoE (23F)	16%	11%									
% Companies with Net Cash (23F)	53%	23%									

Valuation		
	MUSCIT	Numis SmallCap (ex-IC) Index
P/E (2023F)	17.6	10.0
Dividend Yield (2023F)	2.7%	3.5%

Growth		
	MUSCIT	Numis SmallCap (ex-IC) Index
Sales Growth (2023F)	8.4%	5.2%
EPS Growth (2023F)	6.5%	6.7%

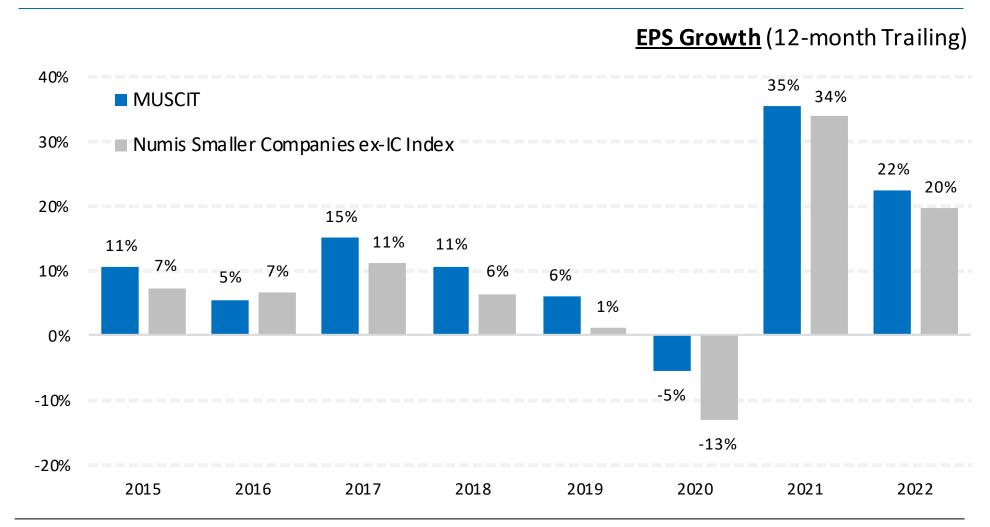


Our companies typically tend to deliver – unlike the benchmark





MUSCIT has produced higher EPS growth in 7 of the past 8 years



Source: Internal, Factset.

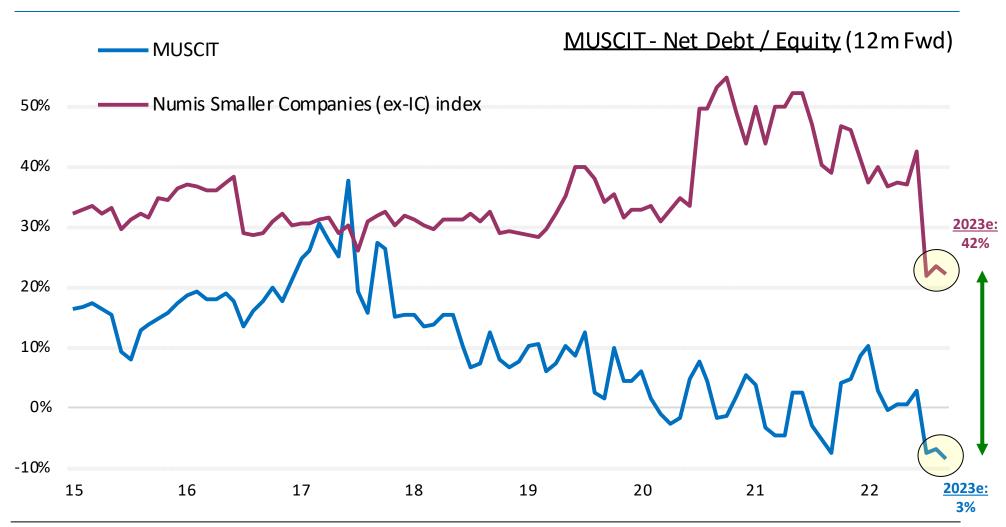


A portfolio of consistently High Quality companies

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Ave 2015 - 22
Revenue Growth	11%	11%	14%	11%	9%	4%	21%	16%	12%
10Y EPS Growth (Trail.)	S Growth (Trail.) n/a 11% 11% 11		11%	11%	12%	12%	13%	12%	
EBIT Margin	20%	19%	16%	16%	16%	17%	18%	20% 18%	
RoE	17%	18%	18%	16%	17%	15%	20%	17%	17%
Net Gearing	n/a	9%	17%	38%	10%	-1%	-2%	-8%	9%
% Companies with Net Cash	36%	46%	47%	43%	42%	49%	51%	49%	45%



... with strong balance sheets (over half have net cash)





ESG is an integral part of our investment process

- 1. We are a certified B Corp
- 2. ESG has been part of our investment process for almost two decades:
 - we have our own Sustainability Committee and ESG Checklists
 - we vote at every AGM (where possible)
- 3. Our large team enables us to engage with our companies (Quality over Quantity)
- 4. We are active in the sustainability debate:
 - member of M. Carney's GFANZ real economy transition taskforce (the only UK asset manager)
 - we <u>Co-Chair the B Corp Finance & Investment Working Group</u>
- 5. We have won **several ESG & Impact awards: ***
 - "Best Small & MidCap Sustainable Investment Boutique" (2022)



ESG Dashboard: a Portfolio with low Carbon Intensity

CLIN	ЛАТЕ		
	Source	MUSCIT	Numis SC Indx
Carbon Intensity (Scope 1 & 2 / Sales)	MSCI	78.4	118.2
% Scope 3 Emissions available	MSCI	43%	44%
MSCI Low Carbon Transition Score (1 to 10)	MSCI	6.2	6.0

	SOCIAL		
	Source	MUSCIT	Numis SC Indx
MSCI Social Score (1 to 10)	MSCI	4.7	4.7
% Employee Turnover	Bloomberg	-	20%
% Women in Workforce	Bloomberg	43%	38%

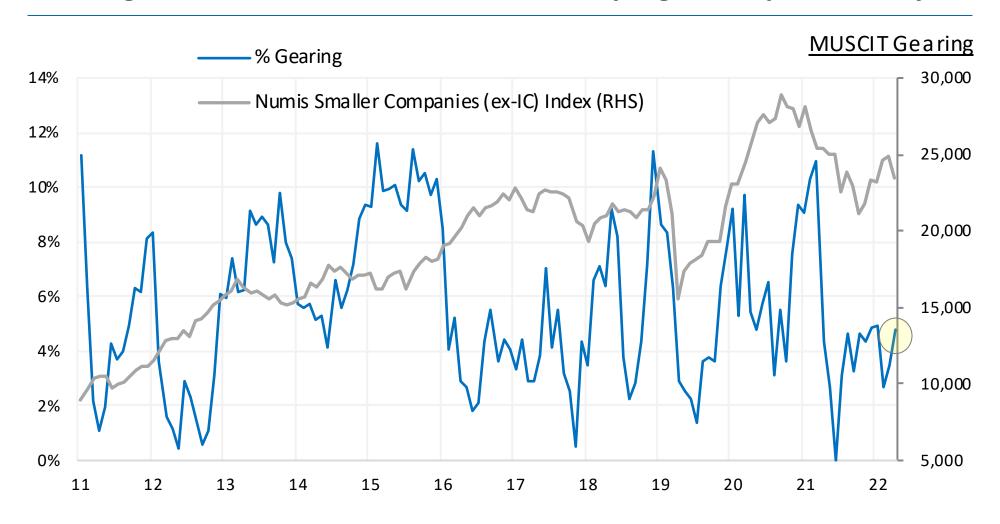
ENVIRO	NMENT		
	Source	Fund	Numis SC Indx
MSCI Environmental Score (1 to 10)	MSCI	5.5	5.6
Polution & Waste Score (1 to 10)	MSCI	3.5	3.1
Biodiversity & Land Use Exposure Score	MSCI	1.7	2.1

GOVERNANCE											
	Source	Fund	Numis SC Indx								
MSCI Governance Score (1 to 10)	MSCI	7.3	7.4								
% Non-Executive Directors	Bloomberg	71%	73%								
% Women on Boards	Bloomberg	35%	35%								

Source: Internal, MSCI, Bloomberg.



Gearing of c.5% at the end of March - keeping some powder dry





Key Messages for last financial year (to March 2022)

- 1. NAV declined 5% last year (-3.9% vs benchmark)*:
 - largely due to the final quarter
- 2. A year of two halves:
 - 1H: +9% outperformance; 2H: -10% underperformance
- 3. Big <u>macro-economic uncertainties</u>:
 - Ukraine War; COVID; inflation; rising rates etc.
- 4. Almost unprecedented rotation from Growth to Value
- 5. Companies trading well and positive
- 6. MUSCIT on an <u>attractive discount</u> currently (-11%):
 - and a 6% dividend yield
- 7. Over 99% voted for Continuation at the 2021 AGM: THANK YOU!



Montanaro

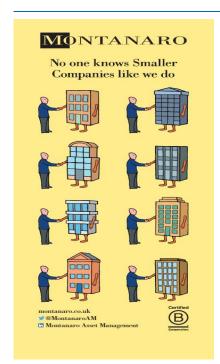


Update on Montanaro

- 1. AUM of c.£4 billion
- 2. New member joining as **ESG & Impact Specialist** in April 2023 (Harriet Evans)
- 3. MAM renewed its B Corp for 3 years:
 - with an improved score of 105.5 (v. 81.8 in 2019)
- 4. In March 2023, MAM announced it will **offset 100% of its historical emissions by 2030**:
 - ... with the objective of being Carbon Negative by 2030
 - new partnership with Klimate (Denmark)
- 5. First MAM Investor Conference held in February 2023 next one on 6 March 2024 *



Montanaro - history



- Established by Charles Montanaro in 1991
- Specialists in quoted, Global Small & MidCap
- AUM of £3.7 billion
- One of the largest Small & MidCap Teams in Europe
- "Quality Growth" investors
- "Best Small & MidCap Sustainable Investment Boutique" (2022) *
- A certified B Corporation **



1991		<u> 1993:</u>	<u> 1995:</u>	2000:	2005:	2006:	2007:	2009:	<u> 2011:</u>	<u>2012:</u>	2015:	<u>2017:</u>	2018:	2020:	2021:
Mon	tanaro	UK Growth &	UK Investment	European	First	UK Income	AuM reach	FRR (French	Charles	Europear	European	ERAFP	Better	Launch	Global
found	ded	Income Fund	Trust (MUSCIT)	Smaller	Segregated	Fund	£1bn	Gov.)	River	MidCap	Income	Mandate	World	of LF	Innovation
				Companies	Mandate	European		Mandate		Fund	Fund		Fund	onshore	Fund
				Fund		Trust								Funds	
						(MESCT)									

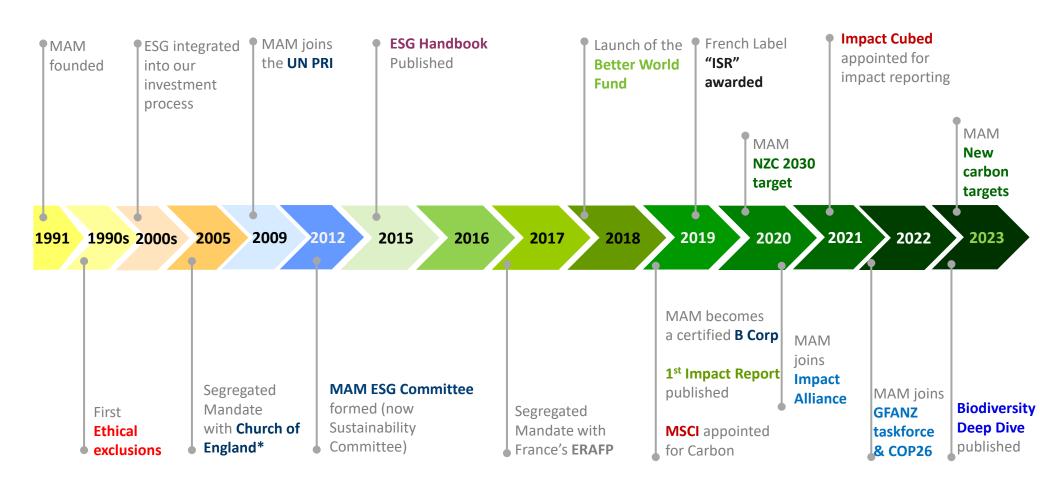
Source: Internal.

^{*} Ethical Finance Awards 2022.

^{**} Since June 2019.



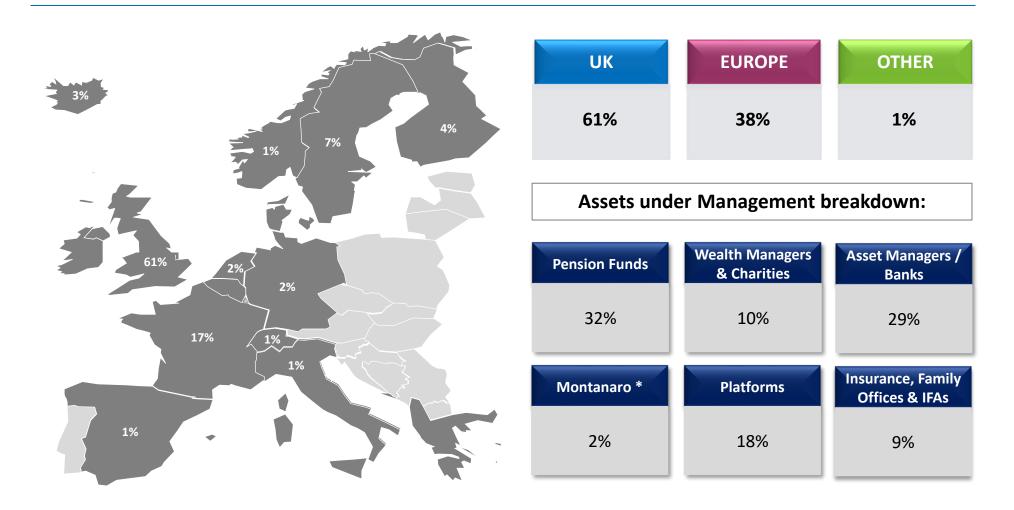
A long history of sustainable investing



^{*} The mandate ran for 10 years from 2005 to 2015.



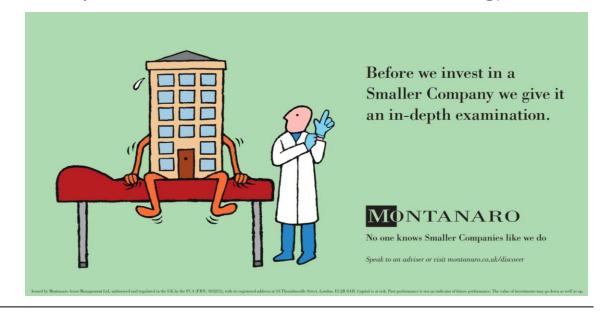
Our clients





We are different – "an Oasis in the City"

- 1. Our Business
- 2. Exclusive Focus
- 3. Team approach
- 4. Conservative (no loss-makers, no unquoteds, no derivatives, no stock lending)
- 5. We invest in our own Funds
- 6. Long-term investors
- 7. All research in-house





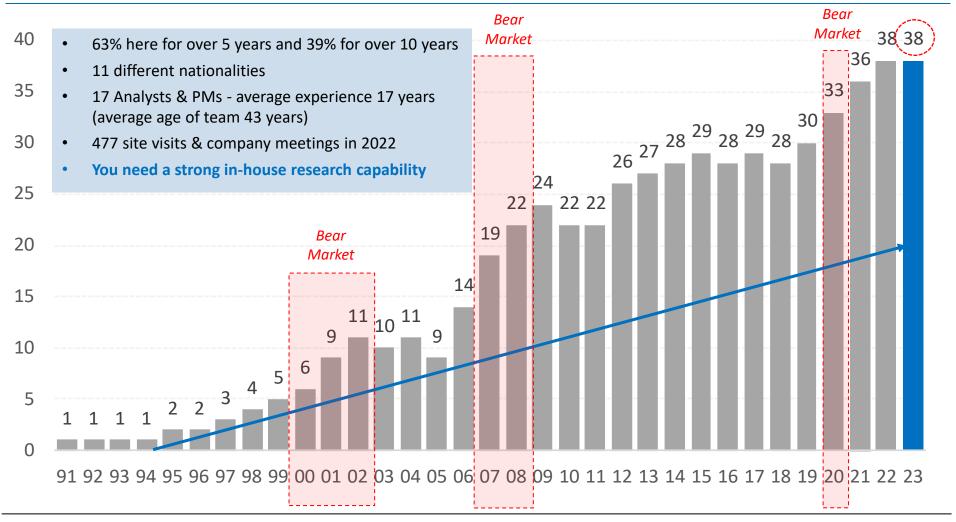
You need a big team to engage with all the companies



Source: Internal.



The team has grown to 38 - all research is completed in-house





17 Analysts and Portfolio Managers with eleven nationalities

		Role / Sector(s)	Experience	Montanaro	Qualifications		
	Charles Montanaro	PM	41 Years	32 Years	BA (Hons) Anthropology, Durham University		
	Cedric Durant des Aulnois	PM	23 Years	16 Years	MSc from Dauphine Uni, MSc from LSE, MBA		
	Stefan Fischerfeier	PM / Capital Goods & Industrials	24 Years	16 Years	MBA from University of Mainz, CFA		
	George Cooke	PM	17 Years	13 Years	BA & MA from Nottingham University, CFA		
쵤	Nere Asumendi	Technology & Healthcare	17 Years	12 Years	MBA from London Business School		
	Andrea Shen	PM / Consumer & Finance	25 Years	11 Years	MA from Columbia University		
-	Henrik Schmidt	Scandinavia	23 Years	11 Years	MSc from Linkoping University		
	Mark Rogers	PM / Consumer & Finance	37 Years	9 Years	BA from Bangor University		
	Ed Heaven	ESG & Impact	16 Years	9 Years	B.A. (Hons) Theology, Durham University		
	Gaspar Arino	Capital Goods & Industrials	16 Years	8 Years	MBA from IESE, CFA		
	Alex Magni	PM / Capital Goods & Industrials	23 Years	8 Years	MEng & PhD from Imperial College		
	Guido Dacie-Lombardo	PM / Technology & Healthcare	14 Years	7 Years	MSc from Cambridge University, CFA		
	Yannis Gidopoulos	Technology & Healthcare	4 Years	4 Years	BA from Durham University		
	Hal Miller	Technology & Healthcare	6 Years	3 Years	BA from Cambridge University, CFA Level 1		
	Kate Hewitt	ESG & Impact	7 Years	2 Years	MA in Environment, Development and Peace		
	Manroop Bal	Consumer & Finance	7 Years	< 1 Year	BSc from University College London, ACA		
	Harriet Evans	ESG & Impact	4 years	Apr. 2023	BA from Durham University		

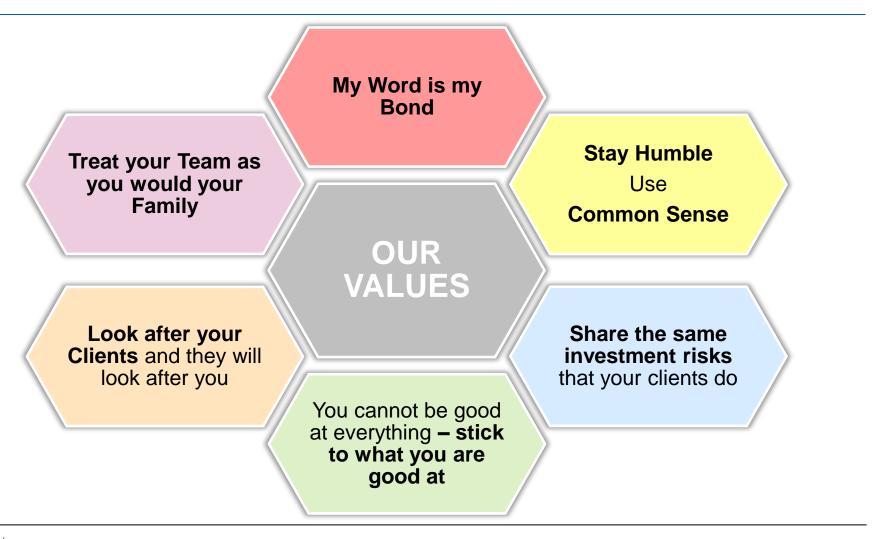


Our Team celebrating 50 years of Glastonbury





Our Values





Investment Philosophy & Process



Our investment philosophy

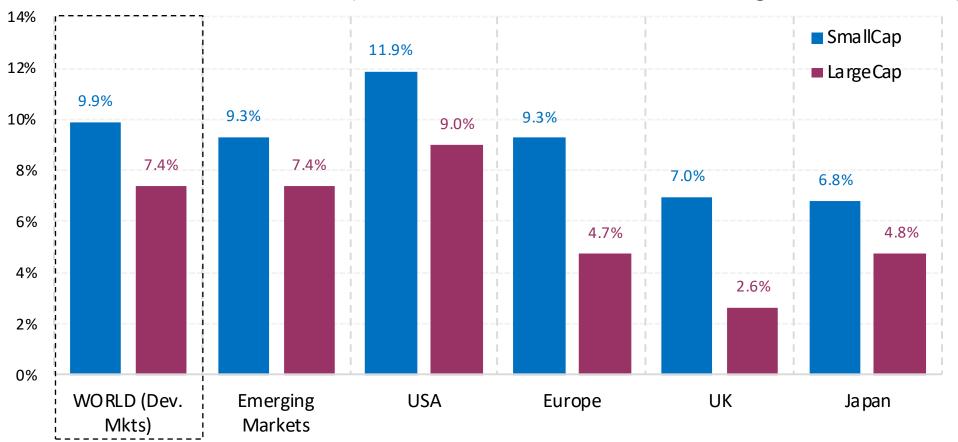
- 1. SMidCap is an attractive asset class
- 2. Stick to companies you **understand** (use common sense)
- 3. Back the **best management** teams
- 4. Invest in **structural growth**
- Don't overpay
- 6. Engage with companies **ESG matters**
- 7. Humility goes a long way
- 8. Clients are our "partners" be open & transparent



The "SmallCap Effect" is a global phenomenon

Net Total Returns over the past 20 Years (p.a.)

(GBP, Dec 2002 - Dec 2022, based on Regional MSCI Indices)



Source: Internal, MSCI, Bloomberg,



What is a "Montanaro" company?

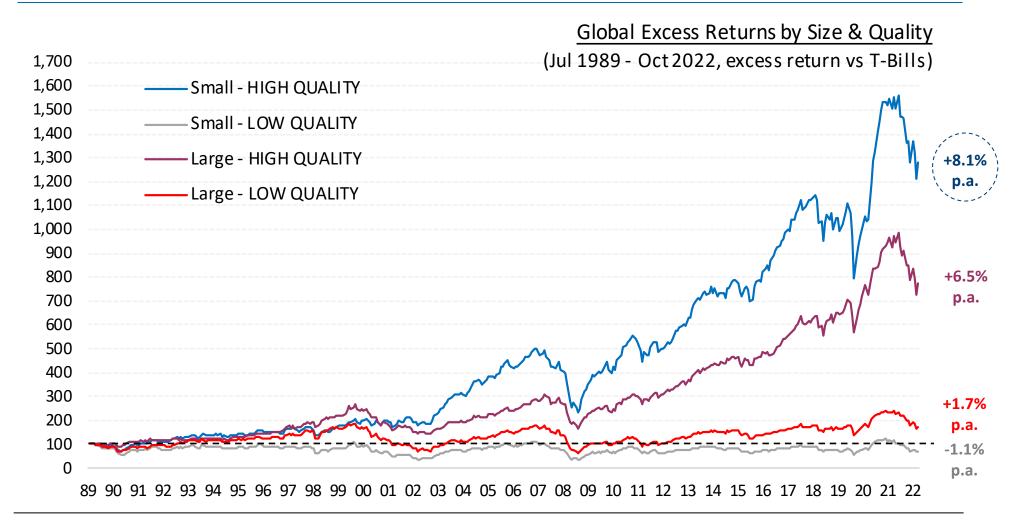
- 1. Well-established with a business model we can Understand
- 2. Focused business in a Structural Growth market
- 3. Market Leader
- 4. High Margins and Returns on Capital; strong Balance Sheet and Cashflow
- 5. Good Management with a Strong ESG Culture
- 6. One we can hold for the **Long-Term**



We are "Quality Growth" Investors



"Quality Growth" has delivered the best returns historically





Our Investment Process is all about identifying Quality

Stage 1:

Is it a good **Business**?

NEW IDEAS:

- Sector reviews
- Proprietary screens
- Growth themes
- Referrals

QUALITY ANALYSIS:

- Quality Checklist
- ESG Checklist
- Financial Profile
- Management

GROWTH ANALYSIS:

- Growth Checklist
- Company Drivers
- Industry Analysis
- Cyclicality

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Approval Decision

APPROVED LIST

~250 Companies

Stage 2:

Is it a good **Investment?**

VALUATION:

- Intrinsic Value
- Target & BUY Price
- Peer Comparison
- Reverse DCF

RISK / REWARD:

- Liquidity
- Scenario Analysis
- Downside Risk
- Catalysts

RECOMMENDATION:

- Strong Buy
- Buy
- Under
- Sell

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

Valuation Review Potential Inclusion in Portfolios

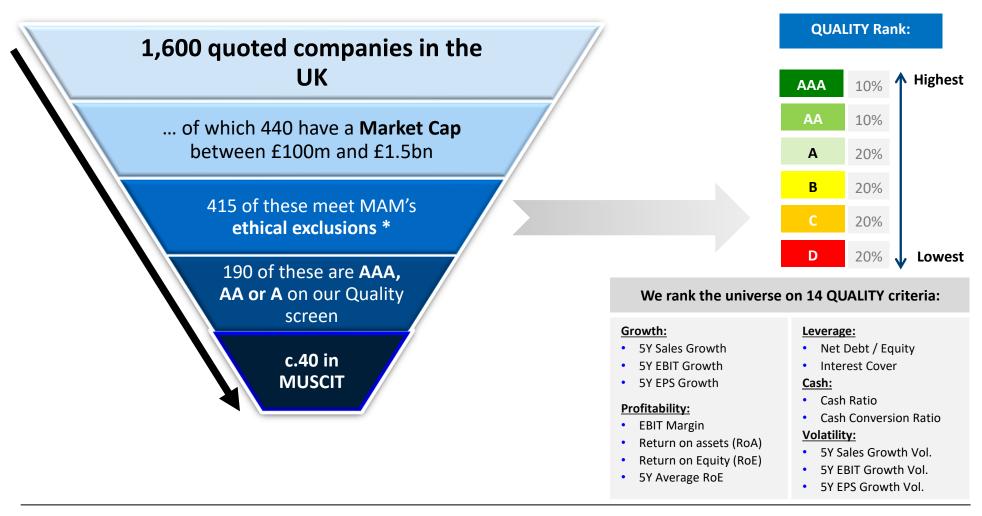


Screens: We have a proprietary quantitative screening tool

MONTANARO								QUALITY												
Universe Screen: Europe	Total: 2,415	12-Jan-2023	[15bn, [15bn]	AAA: 10%, AA	: 10%, A: 20%, I	B: 20%, C: 20	stry Classification Star		Growth			Profital	oility		Leve	erage	Ca	sh		Volatilit
ID Company	Ticker	Country	Size	Quality	ESG ,T	Value	Sector (GICS - 1)	Sales Growth (5Y av	EBIT Growth (5Y av _ξ ×	EPS Growth (5Y av _₹ ▼	EBIT Margin	ROA	ROE	ROE (5Y av	Net Debt / Equity	Interest Covera	Cash / Total De	CFO / EBITDA (5Y av _E ▼	Sales Growth (5Y s.de ▼	EBIT Growth (5Y s.de
3 1&1 AG	1U1 GR	Germany	SmallCap	A	D	AA	Communication Services	10%	9%	13%	14%	5%	7%	8%	19%	67.1	4%	61%	12%	43%
4 1000MERCIS	ALMIL FP	France	SmallCap	В	D	C	Communication Services	6%	-28%	-19%	1%			7%	-20%	13.1	151%	49%	7%	27%
8 2G ENERGY AG	2GB GR	Germany	SmallCap	AAA	D	D	Industrials	9%	29%	30%	7%	8%	15%	14%	-3%	67.8	128%	45%	3%	38%
10 3I GROUP PLC	III LN	United Kingdom	MidCap	В	AAA	AAA	Financials	0%	5%	6%	97%	33%	37%	20%	8%	76.4	3%	18%	44%	80%
11 3U HOLDING AG	UUU GR	Germany	SmallCap	A	D	A	Industrials	5%	22%	30%	12%	3%	5%	6%	-81%	19.7	1009%	22%	10%	53%
14 4IMPRINT GROUP PLC	FOUR LN	United Kingdom	SmallCap	AA	AAA	D	Communication Services	9%	9%	10%	4%	15%	30%	37%	-53%	72.6	578%	56%	28%	68%
16 888 HOLDINGS PLC	888 LN	United Kingdom	SmallCap	AA	D	AA	Consumer Discretionary	10%	-7%	12%	9%	13%	43%	27%	-90%	25.4	1576%	86%	21%	82%
17 A.G. BARR PLC	BAG LN	United Kingdom	SmallCap	AA	D	В	Consumer Staples	1%	2%	-3%	16%	9%	12%	14%	-22%	269.5	1533%	84%	12%	34%
18 A2A SPA	A2A IM	Italy	SmallCap	A	A	AAA	Utilities	13%	10%	10%	6%	3%	14%	12%	108%	20.1	35%	79%	21%	33%
19 AAK AB	AAK SS	Sweden	SmallCap	A	AA	C	Consumer Staples	10%	5%	10%	6%	6%	13%	15%	41%	34.9	19%	47%	12%	6%
20 AALBERTS NV	AALB NA	Netherlands	SmallCap	A	A	A	Industrials	4%	5%	4%	17%	10%	18%	13%	30%	33.1	28%	73%	8%	52%
21 AAREAL BANK AG	ARL GR	Germany	SmallCap	D	AA	A	Financials	-2%	-7%	0%	18%	0%	2%	3%	732%	2.1	26%	65%	10%	71%
22 AB DYNAMICS PLC	ABDP LN	United Kingdom	SmallCap	AA	A	D	Consumer Discretionary	17%	15%	20%	16%	7%	9%	10%	-12%	139.4	177%	79%	22%	64%
23 AB SCIENCE SA	AB FP	France	SmallCap	C	С	C	Health Care	2%	13%	16%	-859%	-57%				-99999	24%		8%	16%
24 AB TRACTION -B SHS	TRACB SS	Sweden	SmallCap	A	D	В	Financials	-25%	-5%	-5%	102%	38%	38%	12%	-99%	99999	99999%	24%		101%
26 ABC ARBITRAGE	ABCA FP	France	SmallCap	A	D	AA	Financials	-2%	2%	-2%	55%	16%	18%	16%	-7%		318%	91%	29%	51%
27 ABEO SA	ABEO FP	France	SmallCap	C	В	A	Consumer Discretionary	6%	-7%	0%	7%	2%	7%	5%	86%	5.7	28%	71%	19%	58%
28 ABG SUNDAL COLLIER HOLDING	ABG NO	Norway	SmallCap	AAA	С	В	Financials	12%	27%	25%	36%	20%	72%	36%	-103%	23.4	2075%	69%	26%	44%
32 ABL GROUP ASA	ABL NO	Norway	SmallCap	В	С	A	Energy	21%	10%	25%	5%	3%	5%	4%	-9%	3.5	127%	3%	18%	99%
33 ABO GROUP ENVIRONMENT	ABO BB	Belgium	SmallCap	В	С	С	Industrials	11%	10%	16%	5%	3%	11%	10%	70%	20.6	43%	73%	12%	64%
34 ABO WIND AG	AB9 GR	Germany	SmallCap	В	A	D	Utilities	2%	0%	-6%	18%	5%	10%	14%	56%	10.1	20%	-20%	17%	12%
35 ABOUT YOU HOLDING SE	YOU GR	Germany	SmallCap	В	A	D	Consumer Discretionary	25%	3%	35%	-7%	-15%	-39%	-46%	-56%	-99999	295%		1%	75%
36 ABRDN EUROPEAN LOGISTICS INC	ASLI LN	United Kingdom	SmallCap	A	A	A	Real Estate	20%	35%	-15%	215%	7%	11%	11%	0%	5.3	102%	29%	24%	45%
37 ABRDN PLC	ABDN LN	United Kingdom	SmallCap	D	AAA	A	Financials	-3%		-25%	1%	9%	14%	10%	11%	12.5	66%	43%	41%	114%
38 ABRDN PROPERTY INCOME TRUST	APILN	United Kingdom	SmallCap	В	A	A	Real Estate	-3%	-3%	-5%	337%	17%	23%	9%	25%	10.1	7%	56%	7%	90%
39 ABSOLENT AIR CARE GROUP AB	ABSO SS	Sweden	SmallCap	A	С	D	Industrials	14%	8%	14%	13%	7%	21%	21%	51%	20.4	49%	76%	23%	58%
40 ACADEMEDIA AB	ACAD SS	Sweden	SmallCap	A	AAA	AAA	Consumer Discretionary	9%	16%	8%	9%	3%	11%	11%	178%	7.1	8%	84%	3%	22%
42 ACAST AB	ACAST SS	Sweden	SmallCap	С	С	D	Communication Services	25%	-40%	50%	-22%	-24%	-33%	-44%	-63%	-99999	2644%			15%
46 ACCESSO TECHNOLOGY GROUP PL		United Kingdom	SmallCap	C	c	D	Information Technology	3%	-2%	-14%	11%	10%	13%	-6%	-32%	27.0	5809%	86%	39%	78%
47 ACCIONA SA	ANA SM	Spain	MidCap	В	AAA	В	Utilities	7%	-2%	2%	10%	2%	9%	9%	82%		37%	51%	15%	22%
49 ACCOR SA	AC FP	France	MidCap	D	A	C	Consumer Discretionary	13%	6%	10%	15%	1%	2%	3%	41%	0.0	40%	53%	39%	96%
50 ACCROL GROUP HOLDINGS PLC	ACRL LN	United Kingdom	SmallCap	D	c	В	Consumer Staples	4%	7%		0%	-1%	-2%	-15%	74%	3.1	0%	68%	12%	98%
52 ACEA SPA	ACE IM	Italy	SmallCap	A	AAA	AAA	Utilities	7%	5%	7%	15%	3%	15%	14%	169%	14.9	20%	68%	7%	24%
53 ACERINOX SA	ACX SM	Spain	SmallCap	A	D	AAA	Materials	9%	20%	10%	12%	11%	31%	11%	22%	21.8	71%	77%	19%	87%
55 ACINQUE SPA	AC5 IM	Italy	SmallCap	В	В	A	Utilities	12%	8%	2%	7%	5%	9%	5%	29%	88.9	17%	72%	27%	48%
56 ACKERMANS & VAN HAAREN	ACKB BB	Belgium	MidCap	A	D	A	Industrials	3%	4%	13%	8%	2%	11%	10%	13%	33.6	75%	81%	9%	39%
57 ACOMO NV	ACOMO NA	Netherlands	SmallCap	B	AA	AA	Consumer Staples	6%	6%	4%	6%	7%	17%	16%	93%	12.5	1%	54%	22%	48%
	ACS SM	Spain	MidCap	B	AAA	AA.	Industrials	-2%	-12%	-14%	0%	8%	62%	26%	-8%	12.5	104%	73%	14%	48%



Our investable universe



70



We rank companies to identify the highest quality (AAA - D)

We assess the **QUALITY** of the Universe using 14 criteria:

Growth:

- 5Y Sales Growth
- 5Y EBIT Growth
- 5Y EPS Growth

Profitability:

- EBIT Margin
- Return on assets (RoA)
- Return on Equity (RoE)
- 5Y Average RoE

Leverage:

- Net Debt / Equity
- Interest Cover

Cash:

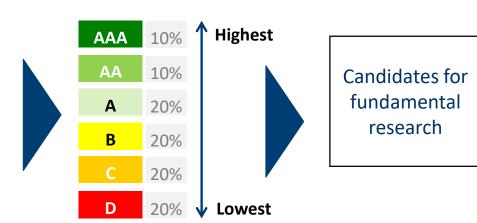
- Cash Ratio
- Cash Conversion
 Ratio

Volatility:

- 5Y Sales Growth Vol.
- 5Y EBIT Growth Vol.
- 5Y EPS Growth Vol.

Universe of 30,000 -> 1,000 are AAA - A

QUALITY Rank:



Source: Montanaro

Weighting

Weighting



The Quality Checklist is at the heart of our investment process

BIG YELLOW (BYG LN)

KEY CRITERIA				
Attractive Growth Potential	YES			
Comprehensible Business Model	YES			
Existing Competitive Strength				
Good Management				
Good ESG				
KEY CRITERIA:(Full Pass)	PASS			

GROWTH OUTLOOK

Market Opportunity (2 points)	Yes	4
Predictability of Growth	Yes	3
Inorganic Opportunity	No	2
Low Cyclicality	Yes	4
Good Entry Point in Cycle	Yes	3
TOTAL:	83%	3.3

Weighting

30%

BUSINESS PROFILE

BOSH4ESS I ROTTEE		
Product focus	Yes	5
High Product Differentiation	No	2
Customer Captivity (2 points)	Yes	3
Pricing Power (2 points)	No	2
Diversified Customers (2 points)	Yes	5
Good Order Visibility/Recurring Revenue	Yes	3
Supply Side Advantages (access to resources, prod. tech.)	Yes	4
Cost Advantages	Yes	3
High Quality of Assets (R&D, Brand, PPE)	Yes	3
TOTAL:	75%	3.3
	Weighting	20%

COMPETITIVE PROFILE		
Concentration of Industry	Yes	4
Market Leader	Yes	4
Low Competitive Rivalry (2 points)	Yes	3
High Barriers to Entry (2 points)	Yes	4
Low Threat from Substitutes	Yes	4
Low Power of Buyers	Yes	3
Low Power of Suppliers	Yes	3
TOTAL:	100%	3.6

FINANCIAL PROFILE	Ξ
-------------------	---

Historic value creation - ROCE exceeded WACC (2 points)?	Yes	4
High Margins (10% EBIT margins)	Yes	5
Stability & Sustainability of ROIC	Yes	4
Strong Cash Generation (generation of free cash flow)	Yes	4
Good cash conversion (conversion of EBIT to cash)	Yes	4
Low balance sheet gearing	Yes	4
High Interest cover	Yes	4
Clean Accounts (no exceptionals)	Yes	4
TOTAL:	100%	4.1

MANAGEMENT PROFILE

WANAGEMENT TROTTEE		
Competent Management - background, experience, CV's	Yes	5
Corporate Governance	Yes	5
Social & Environmental	Yes	5
High insider ownership	Yes	5
Good Reporting Tansparency	Yes	4
TOTAL:	100%	4.8
	Weighting	10%
CHECKLIST TOTAL SCORE:	90%	74

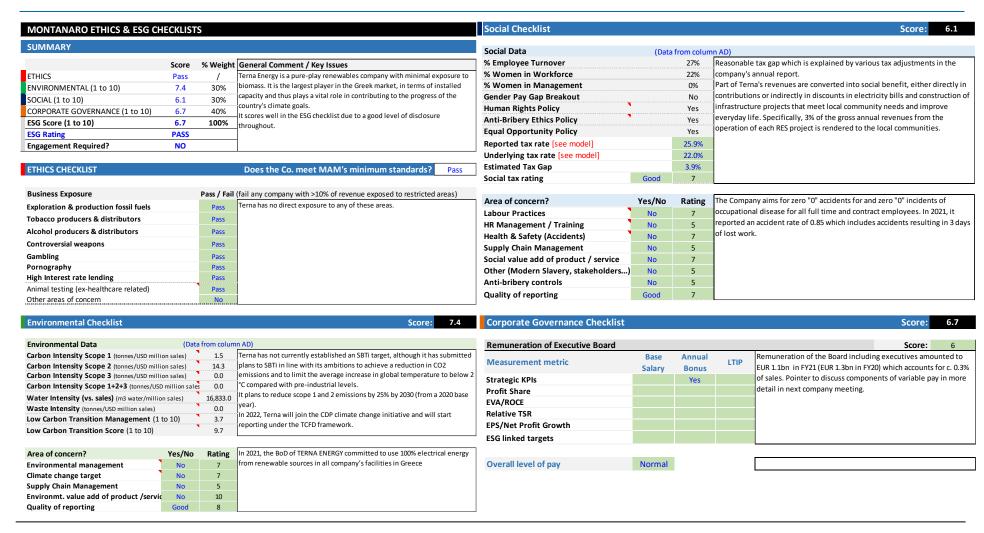
(out of 100)

Source: Internal.

Big Yellow scores 74



We complete an ESG Checklist for every company





New ideas are presented to our Investment Committee



Charles MONTANARO (Chair)



Mark ROGERS



George COOKE



Alex MAGNI

The Investment Committee has two distinct roles:

Gatekeeper to the "Approved List" (Primary):

- Approving new ideas
- Removing companies from the App. List
- Ensuring that all FMs have enough choice
- Meeting frequency: <u>ad hoc</u> (the IC reviews 100-150 companies per year)

Oversight of all portfolios (Secondary):

- Acts as a sounding board for FMs
- Ensures consistency between portfolios
- Has the power to overrule FMs in the event of material disagreement
- Meeting frequency: <u>Quarterly</u>



We visit our companies wherever they are located



















Why invest in UK SmallCap?



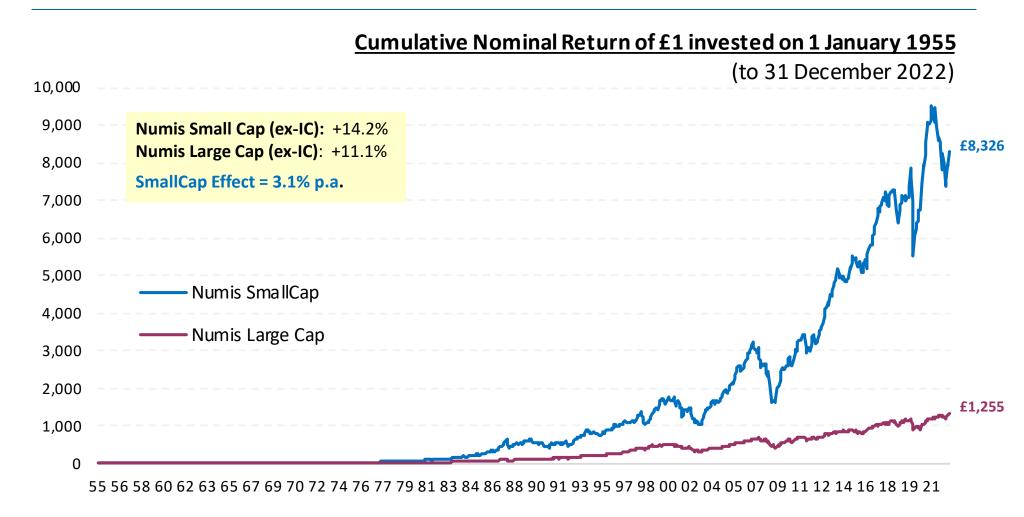
Why invest in UK SmallCap?

- Higher Returns historically the "SmallCap Effect":
 - SmallCap v. LargeCap: +3.1% p.a. (Jan 1955 Dec 2022) *
 - excess returns remain even after adjusting for risk
- 2 Huge Choice 1,600 quoted companies in the UK
- 3 An <u>Under-Researched</u> asset class → inefficient market allowing alpha generation
- Diversification ☞ helps reduce portfolio risk
- 5 Good hedge against inflation

We believe that all medium and long-term investors should have a strategic asset allocation to UK SmallCap

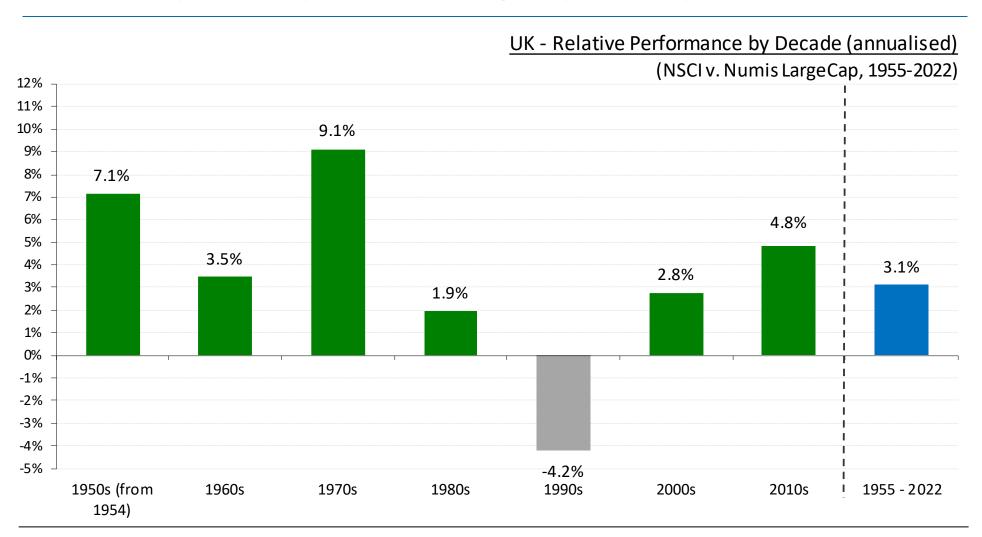


#1: Returns – almost Seven Times Higher since 1955



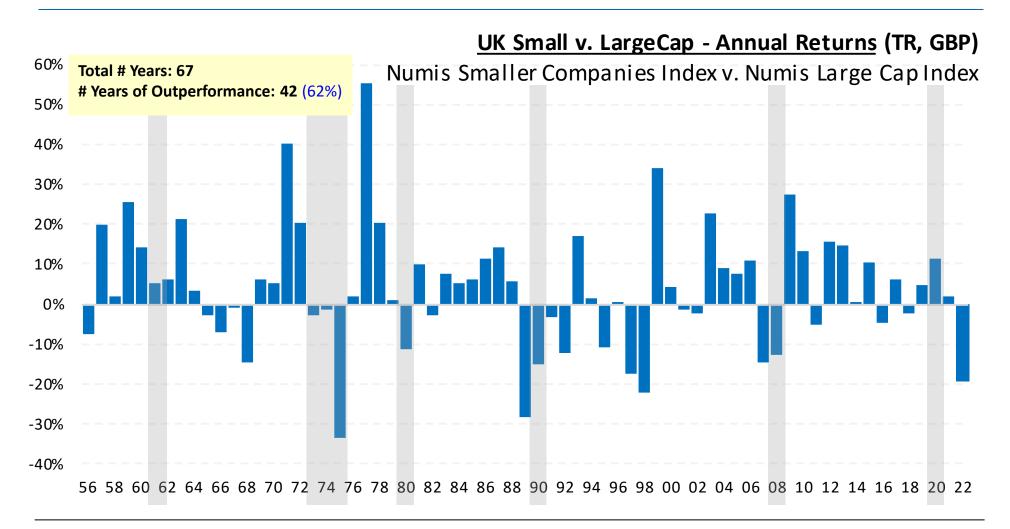


UK SmallCap has outperformed LargeCap in every decade bar the 1990s





... and it has outperformed 62% of the time since 1955

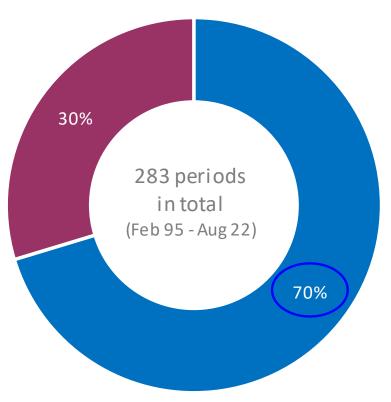


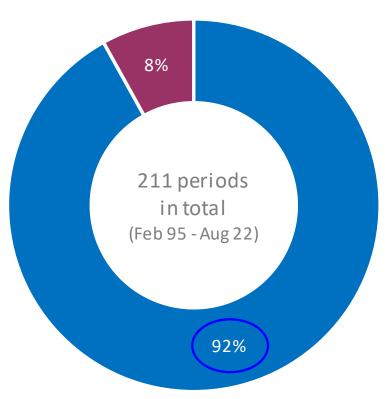


Global SmallCap has outperformed LargeCap 92% of the time over 10Y



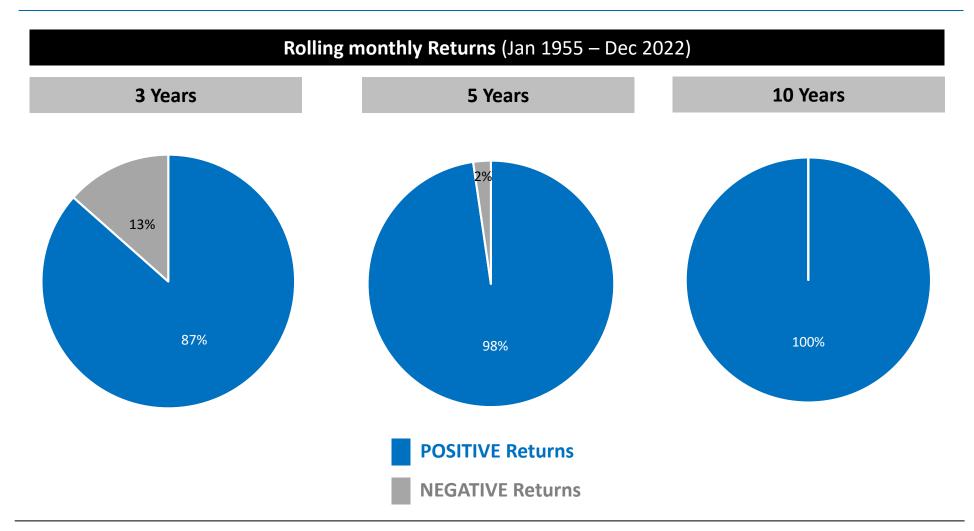
% of Periods of Outperformance 10 YEARS of monthly rolling returns







Long-term investors have typically made money investing in UK SmallCap

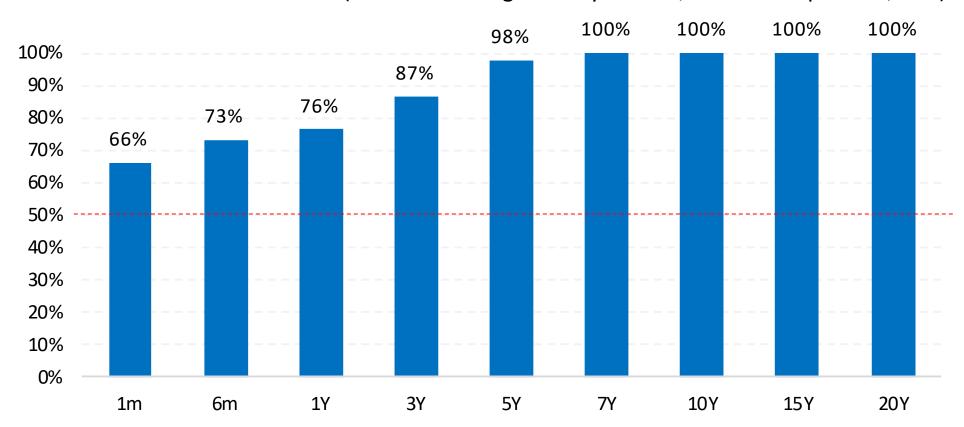




SmallCap has been a great asset class for long-term investors

% of POSITIVE Returns - Numis Smaller Companies Index

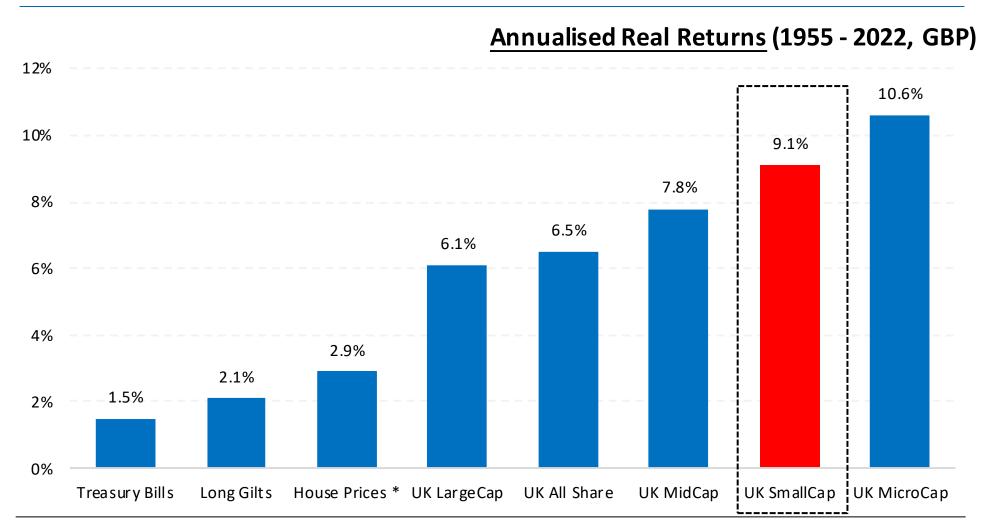
(based on rolling monthly returns, Jan 1955 - Apr 2023, GBP)



Source: Internal, Numis.



SmallCap has outperformed all other major UK asset classes bar MicroCap

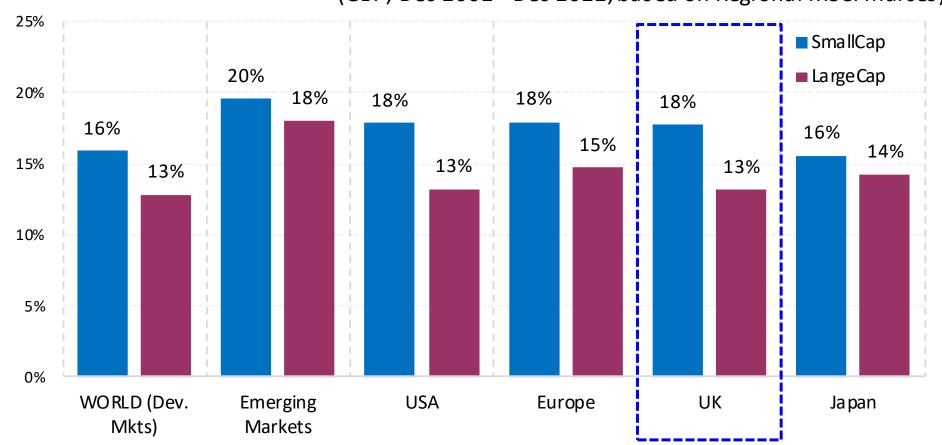




SmallCap is slightly more volatile than LargeCap

Volatility of Returns over the past 20 Years (annual.)

(GBP, Dec 2002 - Dec 2022, based on Regional MSCI Indices)



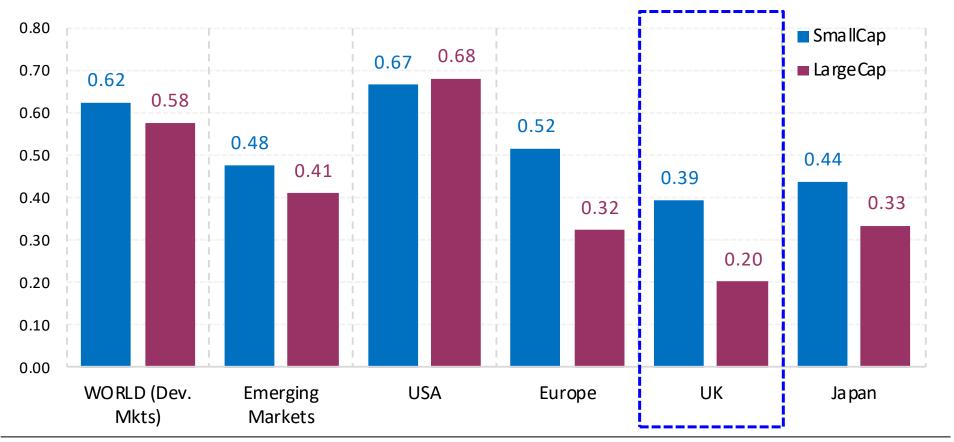
Source: Internal, MSCI, Bloomberg,



... but SmallCap has given higher <u>risk-adjusted</u> returns

Risk-adjusted Returns over the past 20 Years (Return / St Dev)

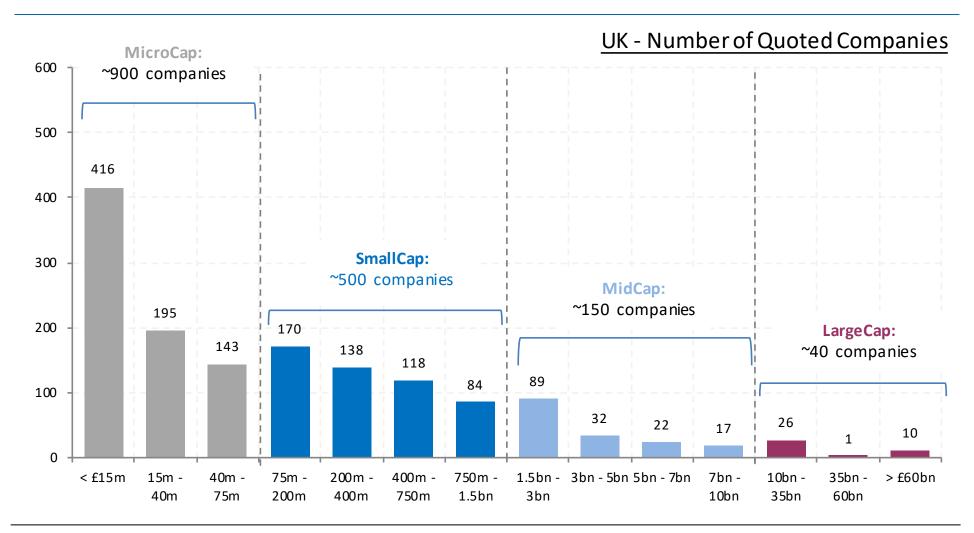
(GBP, Aug 2002 - Aug 2022, based on Regional MSCI Indices)



Source: Internal, MSCI, Bloomberg,



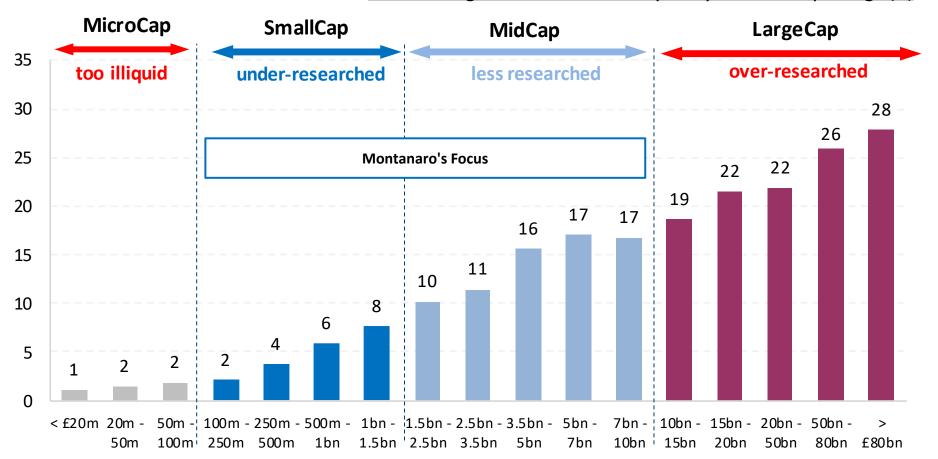
#2: A Large Universe – we are spoiled for choice





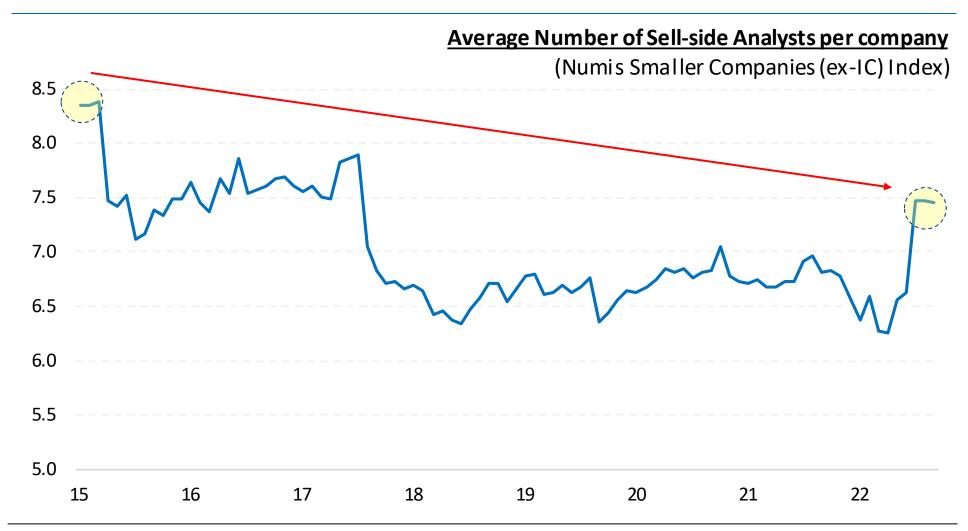
#3: SmallCap is <u>Under-researched</u>

UK - Average # of Sell-side Analysts by Market Cap Range (£)



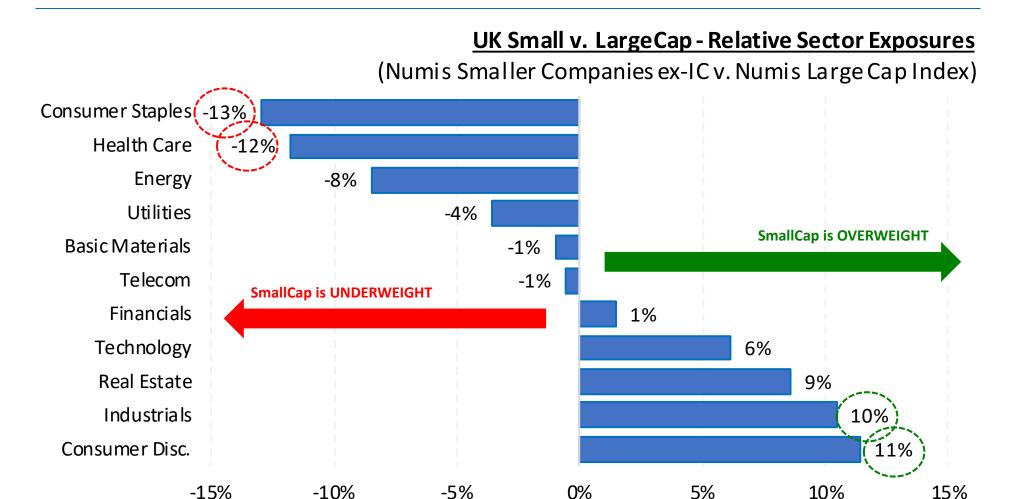


And there is less SmallCap research coverage today than in 2015



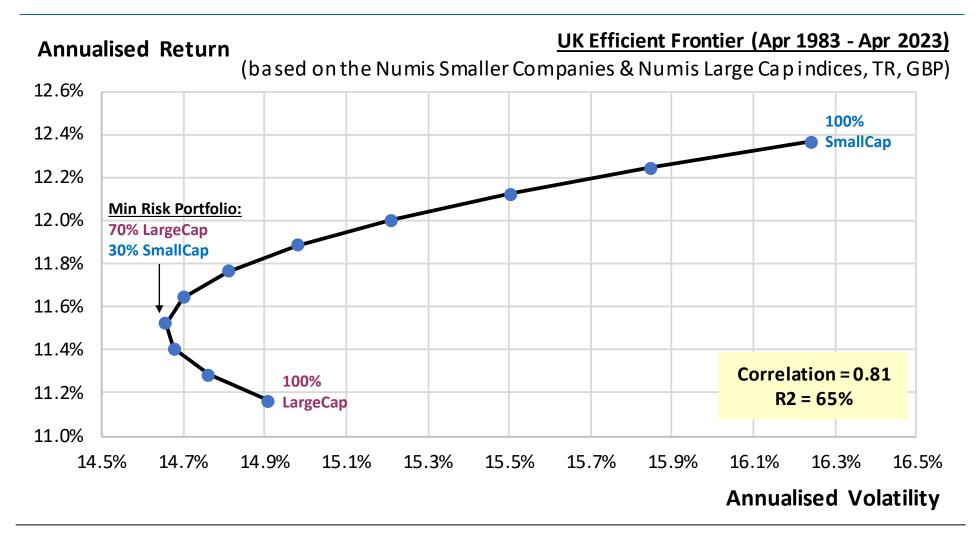


#4: <u>Diversification</u> – Small and LargeCap are exposed to different sectors



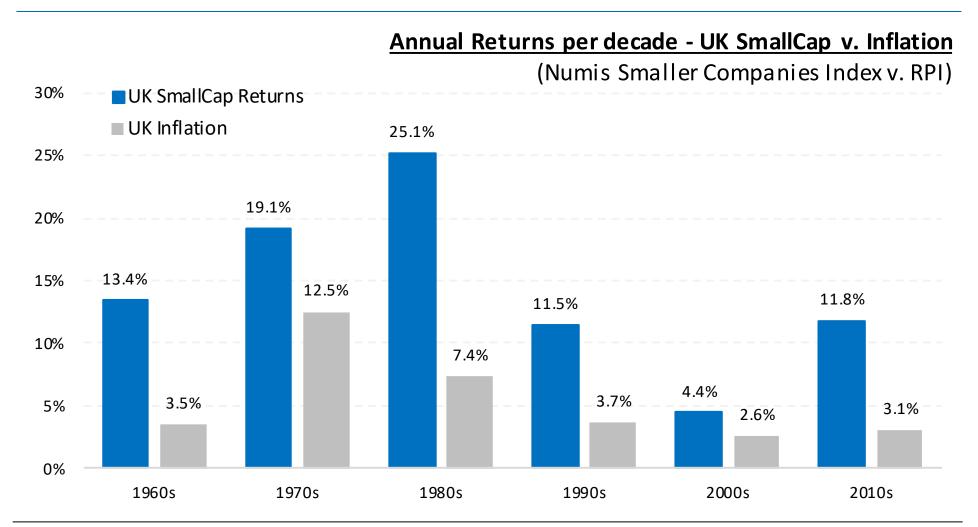


An efficient frontier analysis suggests a 30% weighting in SmallCap



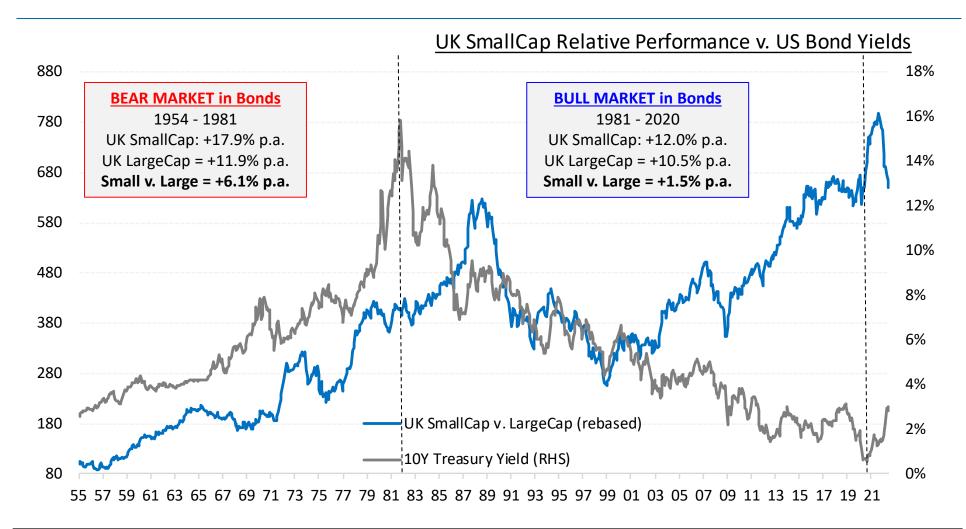


#5 - SmallCap has outperformed inflation in every decade since the 1960s





SmallCap outperformed by 6% p.a. when bond yields rose from 2% to 15%





Inflation has had an impact on the performance of Small v. LargeCap

Periods of RISING INFLATION				
Change in RPI over 12 months	# Occurences	AVERAGE return of Small v. Large (over 12m)	MEDIAN return of Small v. Large (over 12m)	
0% - 1%	124	1.9%	3.8%	
1% to 2%	115	3.3%	5.3%	
2% to 3%	59	7.9%	8.9%	
3% to 4%	39	-0.2%	2.9%	
4% to 5%	16	-0.1%	-1.3%	
5% to 6%	7	-13.4%	-12.1%	
6% to 7%	16	-4.6%	-2.1%	
7% to 8%	12	-6.4%	-7.3%	
8% to 9%	10	-10.7%	-10.3%	
9% to 10%	9	-11.9%	-10.3%	
> 10%	4	-10.3%	-0.6%	

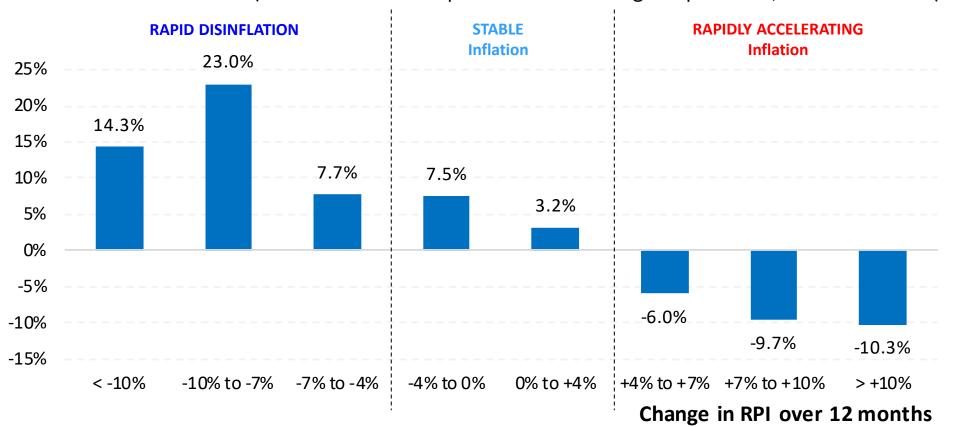
Periods of FALLING INFLATION				
Change in RPI over 12 months	# Occurence s	AVERAGE return of Small v. Large (over 12m)		
-1% to 0%	148	3.8%	1.8%	
-2% to -1%	112	6.1%	4.8%	
-3% to -2%	55	6.8%	5.0%	
-4% to -3%	21	13.4%	7.1%	
-5% to -4%	25	6.1%	5.1%	
-6% to -5%	16	5.1%	2.3%	
-7% to -6%	13	12.0%	5.8%	
-8% to -7%	5	12.6%	0.0%	
-9% to -8%	1	38.1%	38.1%	
-10% to -9%	7	18.3%	11.9%	
< -10%	8	14.3%	11.6%	



SmallCap tends to perform strongly when inflation comes down

Average Return of Small v. LargeCap relative to change in RPI

(Numis Smaller Companies v. Numis Large Capindices, over 12 months)



Source: Montanaro, Barclays, Numis.



When inflation slows, SmallCap does better than other asset classes

				(Total REAL Returns, p.a.)			
	Inflation @	Inflation @	Change	GILTS	UK LARGE	UK SMALL	UK CASH
	Start	Finish	Change	GILIS	CAP	CAP	UK CASH
Disinflation							
1975 - 78	+24.9%	+8.4%	-1 7 %	5%	6%	26%	-2%
1979 - 86	+17.2%	+3.7%	-14%	8%	18%	22%	4%
1990 - 93	+9.3%	+1.9%	-7%	18%	19%	20%	5%
1954 - 59	+5.8%	+0.0%	-6%	-1%	17%	26%	3%
2011 - 16	+4.8%	+1.2%	-4%	2%	6%	14%	-2%
Accelerating In	nflation						
2001 - 06	+0.7%	+4.4%	+4%	2%	5%	13%	1%
2008 - 10	+0.9%	+4.8%	+4%	0%	17%	37%	-3%
1986 - 90	+3.7%	+9.3%	+6%	-1%	3%	-8%	3%
1967 - 71	+2.5%	+9.0%	+7 %	0%	9%	17%	2%
2020 - 22	+1.2%	+13.4%	+12%	-23%	1%	-8%	-7%
1972 - 75	+7.7%	+24.9%	+17%	-14%	-18%	-25%	-6%



Disclaimer

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is a marketing communication. This is not a contractually binding document. Do not base any final investment decision on this communication alone.

This document is issued by Montanaro Asset Management Limited ("MAM") for distribution only to persons of the kind described in Article 11(3) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Investment Advertisements) (Exemptions) Order 1995, or of a kind to whom this document may otherwise lawfully be issued or passed on. It may not be copied or distributed or otherwise made available to any recipient without the express written consent of MAM. The document is neither a prospectus, nor listing particulars, nor an offer or invitation to subscribe for, underwrite or purchase securities.

The information contained in this memorandum is intended for the use of Professional and Institutional Investors only. It is for background purposes, is not to be relied upon by any recipient, and is subject to material updating, revision and amendment. No representation or warranty, expressed or implied, is made, and no liability whatsoever is accepted in relation thereto. This memorandum does not constitute investment advice. References to the outlook for markets are intended simply to help investors with their thinking about markets and the multiple possible outcomes. Investors should always consult their advisers before investing.

All data contained herein have MAM as its source unless otherwise stated. All data contained herein is at the date specified at the top of the page unless stated otherwise. All performance data have been calculated by MAM. Performance Attribution data in particular should be treated as indicative rather than definitive. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results. All investments are subject to risk and the value of shares and the income from them can fall as well as rise due to stock market and currency movements. You may not get back as much as you originally invested. Foreign exchange exposure may increase the volatility of returns. The value of securities may go down as well as up. As the discount or premium to which the investment trust shares trade relative to the NAV per share may vary significantly, the shorter-term share price movements of the listed investment trust shares may not reflect the shorter-term underlying investment performance in terms of NAV per share. The Board of Directors of the investment trust has authorised the Investment Manager to use bank borrowings, allowing increased portfolio investment, and therefore potentially to leverage the overall portfolio. This gearing as well as foreign exchange exposure may increase the volatility of returns.

Montanaro Asset Management Limited (Reg. No. 03246931) has its registered office at 53 Threadneedle Street, London, EC2R 8AR. Montanaro Asset Management is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA Firm Reference Number: 183211).