

Aberforth Partners LLP

Presentation to
ASLIT Investors
November 2021



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ABERFORTH PARTNERS

Aberforth Partners LLP is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority
Aberforth Unit Trust Managers Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Aberforth Partners update



- Over 30 years of small cap value investing
- Self-imposed ceiling on the business to prioritise existing investors
 - AUM capped at c.1.5% of the NSCI (XIC)'s market cap
- Consistency: ownership structure, collegiate process, investment focus
 - Keith Muir to retire on 31 December 2021 – we are recruiting
- Refreshed website launched November 2021: www.aberforth.co.uk
- Successful signatory to the UK Stewardship Code 2020

Performance – periods to 31 October



Total Return %	YTD	1 Year	CAGR	
			*Launch	**Inception
FTSE All-Share	15.6	35.4	4.4	4.4
FTSE 250 (XIC)	16.6	42.0	6.1	6.1
FTSE SmallCap (XIC)	30.4	67.3	8.6	8.6
NSCI (XIC)	21.0	44.5	6.9	6.9
ASLIT Total Assets	27.6	61.8	3.8	3.1
ASLIT ORD NAV	37.5	94.4	4.1	3.2
ASLIT ORD share price	25.4	98.8	0.1	-
ASLIT ZDP share price	7.4	8.4	3.5	-

*Excludes the effects of launch costs

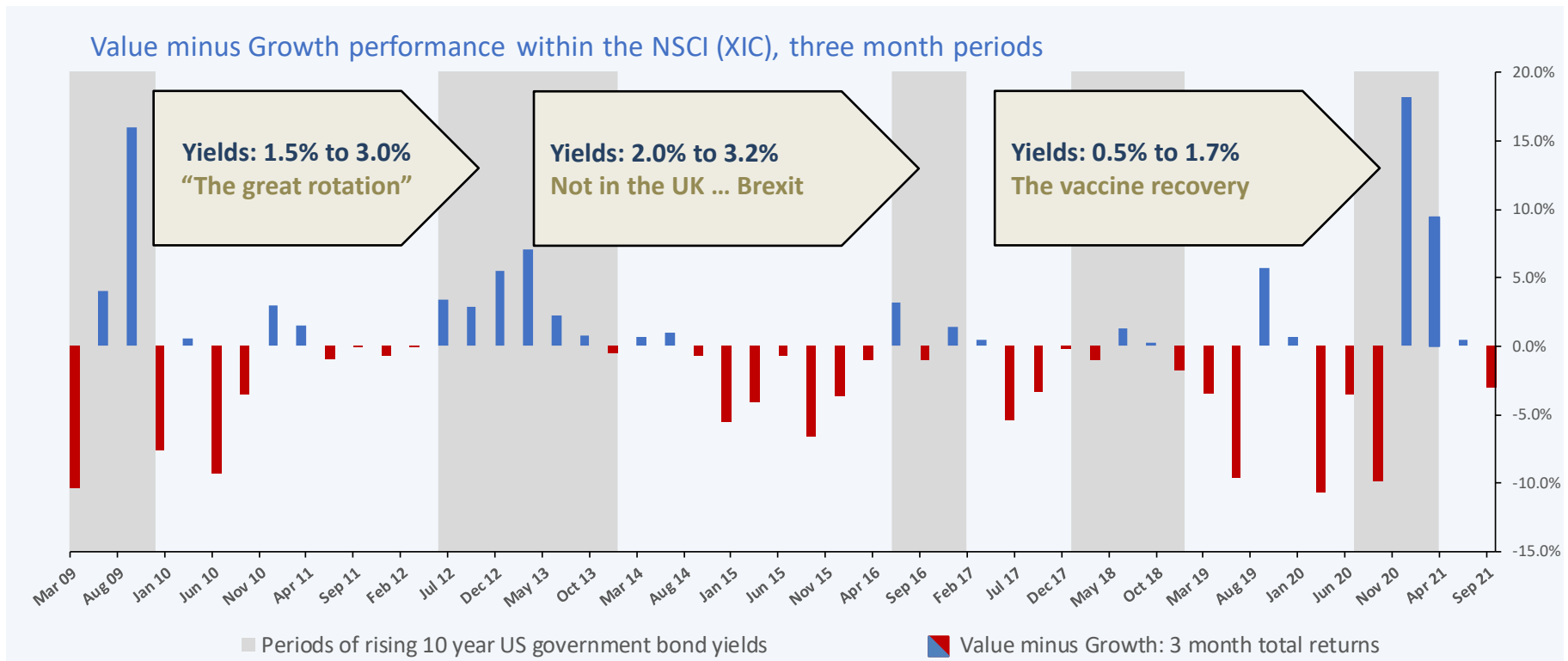
**Inception date for ASLIT was 30/06/2017

Influences on performance



- M&A – continued corporate and private equity appetite for UK assets
- Demand recovery continues
 - Complicated by supply chain issues and higher energy prices
- Inflation and the monetary response
 - Inflation proving less transitory
 - Bond markets appear confident that the central banks are able and willing
- Factors
 - Value positive year-to-date but a swing back to growth since April
 - Small leading large across the market cap spectrum

US bond yields and UK small cap value



- Yields rose with the advent of the vaccines
 - Helpful to value through the duration effect
- Yields fell between March and August
- Current uncertainty as the bond markets consider inflation and monetary policy

Winners and losers – year to 31 Oct 2021



10 Best winners			
Rank	Company	Total return (%)	Contribution (bp)
1	Reach	126	479
2	Wincanton	52	158
3	Redde Northgate	54	144
4	Vitec Group	59	109
5	Bakkavor Group	64	108
6	RPS Group	81	103
7	Brewin Dolphin Holdings	29	100
8	Rathbone Brothers	33	98
9	International Personal Finance	59	89
10	Wilmington	55	87

10 Worst Losers			
Rank	Company	Total return (%)	Contribution (bp)
1	CMC Markets	-32	-73
2	Centamin	-21	-40
3	Sabre Insurance Group	-24	-40
4	Micro Focus	-13	-30
5	Vesuvius	-9	-29
6	Go-Ahead Group	-20	-23
7	Foxtons Group	-14	-15
8	Conduit Holdings	-10	-12
9	Hostelworld Group	-8	-7
10	Speedy Hire	-9	-6

- Supply chain issues not evident in these 10 month figures
- An eclectic list of winners
 - Re-opening beneficiaries and M&A outside the top ten

Purchases and sales – 10 months to 31 Oct 2021



Top 10 Purchases		
Rank	Company	£m
1	Centamin	4.3
2	Rathbone Brothers	3.0
3	PageGroup	2.8
4	Crest Nicholson Holdings	2.2
5	International Personal Finance	1.8
6	Galliford Try Holdings	1.7
7	XPS Pensions Group	1.7
8	Foxtons Group	1.5
9	City Of London Investment Group	1.4
10	Micro Focus	1.3

Top 10 Sales		
Rank	Company	£m
1	Reach	7.8
2	Ultra Electronics Holdings	3.8
3	Vectura Group	3.7
4	Zegona Communications	2.8
5	Forterra	2.8
6	RDI	2.1
7	Halfords Group	1.5
8	PageGroup	1.5
9	Wincanton	1.3
10	Vitec Group	1.2

 New Holding or Total Sales

- 10 month annualised turnover is 18%
- Market recovery and M&A allows “value roll” to recommence
- “Value roll”: sale of relatively expensive stocks and reinvestment into cheaper stocks
 - In the 10 months, average 2023 EV/EBITA of sales 10.7x vs. 6.1x for purchases

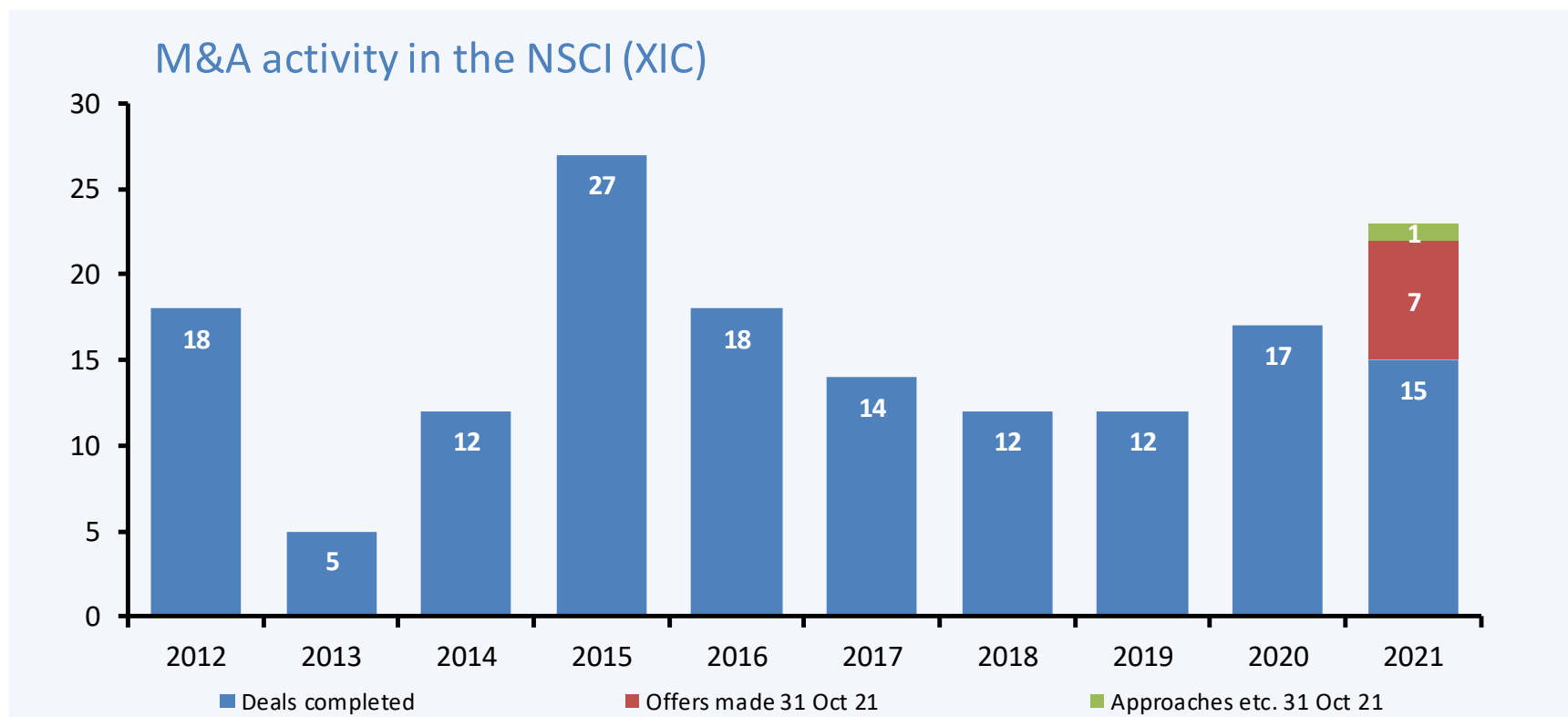
Supply chain disruption



- Global shortages of commodities, semiconductors, shipping, labour
 - Adding to inflationary pressures
- Disentangling the early effects of Brexit is not straightforward
- Companies – and investors – are reassessing supply chains
 - Margin and working capital pressure
- Examples within the portfolio

Company	Portfolio weight	2023 EV/EBITA	
SIG	1.2%	9.7	Driver shortage particularly acute in the UK
Eurocell	1.8%	6.7	Labour shortages forcing a recruitment drive
TI Fluid Systems	2.6%	5.4	Production volumes into auto OEMs dropped due to "chip dip"
Wincanton	3.0%	7.9	HGV driver inflation in part mitigated by open book contracts

Corporate activity has picked up



- We are not alone in seeing the valuation attractions of UK assets
 - Corporates and private equity are re-engaging
- Holdings in the year affected by M&A
 - U and I, Vectura, RDI REIT, Stagecoach; Senior
- Average 2021 EV/EBITA multiple of NSCI (XIC) deals completed & offers: **17.1x**

Valuation – EV/EBITA



- UK equities remain lowly valued relative to the rest of the world
 - Estimated* 35% discount or 12% discount after controlling for sector composition
- Attractive valuations among small caps as profits recover
- Portfolio valuation benefits from the value style and its skew to “smaller smalls”

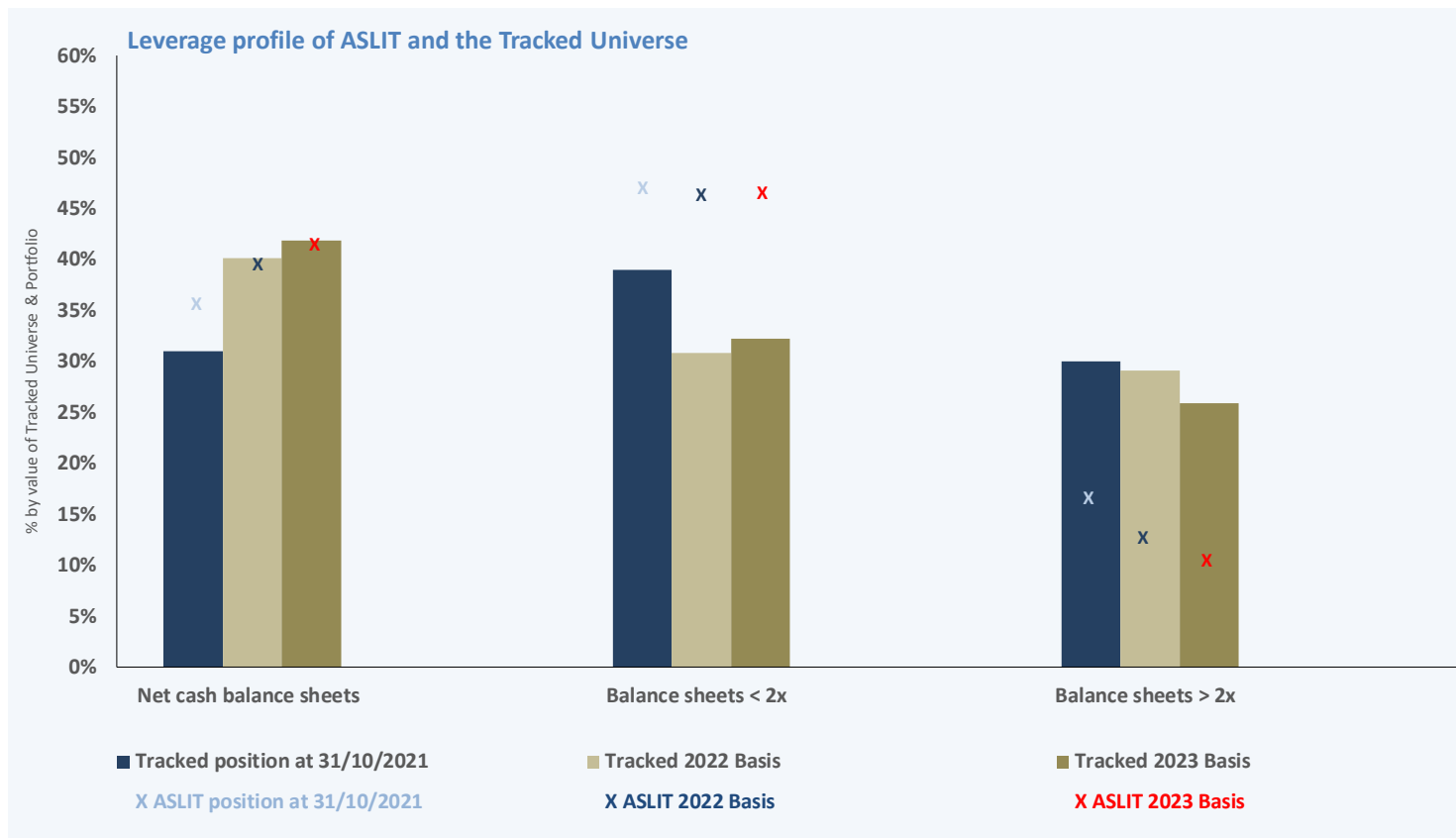
EV/EBITA	Number of stocks	2020	2021	2022	2023
ASLIT	69	12.8x	9.7x	8.4x	7.3x
Tracked Universe	239	15.9x	13.2x	11.0x	9.2x
<i>Growth stocks</i>	41	19.9x	23.0x	19.9x	17.4x
<i>The rump</i>	198	15.2x	12.1x	10.0x	8.3x
<i>Stocks > £600m market cap.</i>	105	16.0x	13.8x	11.4x	9.5x
<i>Stocks < £600m market cap.</i>	134	15.8x	11.5x	9.8x	8.4x

*Panmure Gordon

Balance sheets – little sign of zombies



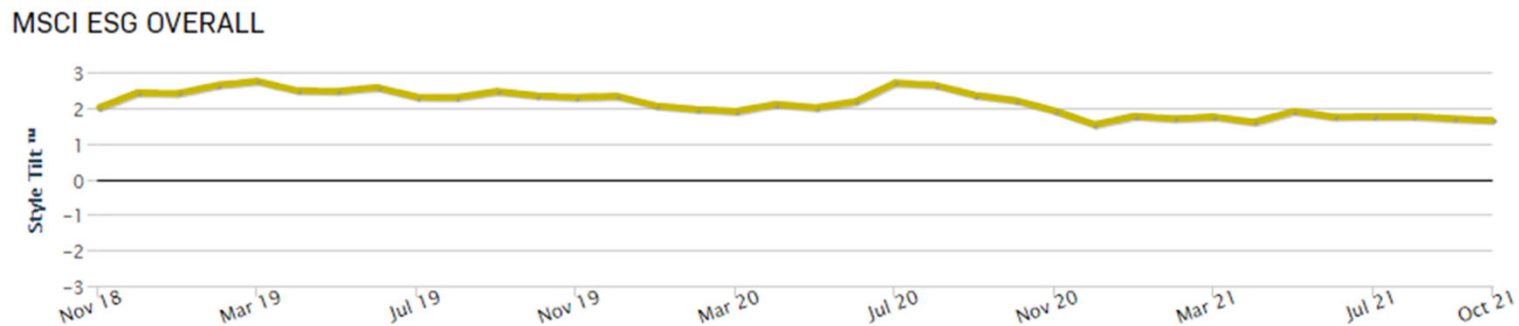
- The chart shows the leverage profile of smaller companies
 - The bars are for the Tracked Universe, the crosses for the portfolio
- On our current estimates, exposure to high leverage reduces in 2022 and 2023
- This reflects resilient underlying generation of free cash flow



ESG – an opportunity for value investors



- ESG is integrated into Aberforth's investment process
- Improved ESG performance can sustain profits and be a catalyst for re-rating
 - Investing in laggards that improve their ESG performance can boost returns
- MSCI analysis suggests that the portfolio is not filled with ESG victims



- But quality and depth of third-party work within the NSCI (XIC) is questionable
- We are working on internal systems to support ESG engagement and reporting
 - The benefits should start to come through in 2022

Return on equity – value creation

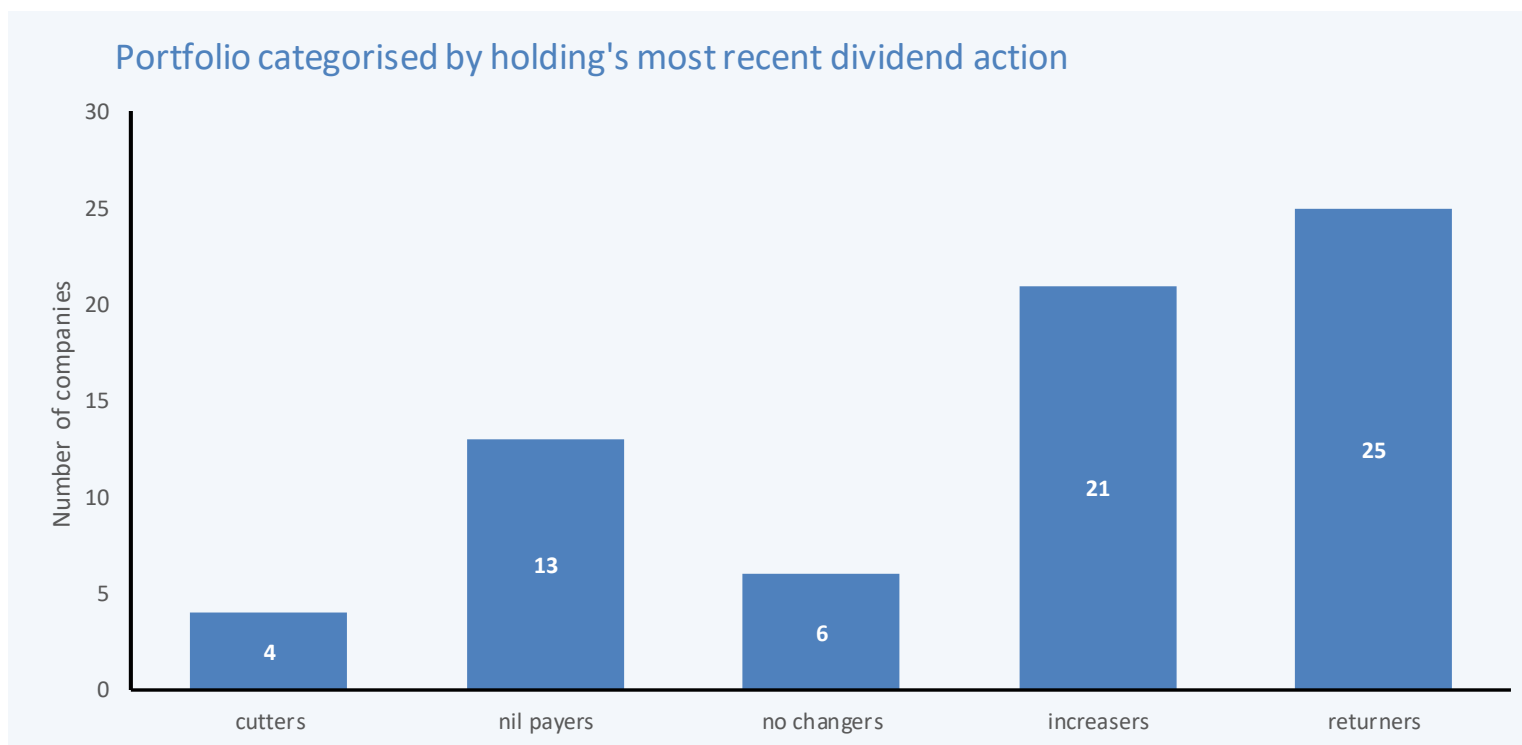


- Weighted average ROEs
 - 2019 pre pandemic: portfolio 16% Tracked Universe 16%
 - 2020 mid pandemic: portfolio 11% Tracked Universe 9%
- The portfolio's ROE in normal conditions is above a notional cost of equity
- The table below shows ROE categories and corresponding weights

	'Loss makers'		'Laggards'		'Value creators'		'Stars'	
	% with <0% ROE		% with 0-10% ROE		% with 10-20% ROE		% with >20% ROE	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
Portfolio	5	15	23	42	40	20	32	23
Tracked	9	21	24	33	39	24	28	22

- We expect that ROEs will return to pre pandemic levels over coming years
- These should support growth after the recovery phase

Resilient dividend experience



- Dividends are recovering more quickly than we had expected six months ago
 - The main influence is reinstatements following cuts to zero in 2020
 - Some companies are still to reinstate, but an encouraging start to the recovery

ASLIT valuation statistics as at 31 October 2021



Ordinary shares

Redemption yields:

Capital growth p.a.	Terminal NAV	Dividend growth p.a.				
		-10.0%	-5.0%	+0%	+5%	+10%
+0.0%	86.8p	5.9%	6.3%	6.7%	7.1%	7.6%
+5.0%	103.3p	12.7%	13.1%	13.4%	13.8%	14.3%
+10.0%	121.2p	19.4%	19.7%	20.1%	20.5%	20.9%
+15.0%	140.5p	25.9%	26.2%	26.6%	27.0%	27.3%
+20.0%	161.2p	32.4%	32.7%	33.0%	33.4%	33.7%

Hurdle rates: (p.a. returns to 30 June 2024)

	31 Oct.	Launch
To return share price	-1.7%	1.5%
To return 100p	4.0%	1.5%
To return zero value	-38.8%	-17.0%

Premium/(discount) incl. revenue reserves:

-13%

Dividends:	2017/8	2018/9	2019/20	2020/21
Ordinary	4.00p ¹	4.16p ¹	4.22p ¹	3.05p ¹
Special	0.60p	0.19p	-	
Revenue reserves	0.83p	1.61p	0.86p	0.72p

¹ First and Second Interim Dividends ² First Interim Dividend

ZDP shares

Redemption yields: (p.a. returns to 30 June 2024)

Now	3.53%	116p to 127.25p at 30 June 2024
At launch	3.50%	100p to 127.25p at 30 June 2024

Hurdle rates: (p.a. returns to 30 June 2024)

	31 Oct.	Launch
To return 127.25p	-38.8%	-17.0%
To return zero value	-89.9%	-57.2%

Premium/(discount) to net asset value:

0%

Final cumulative cover:

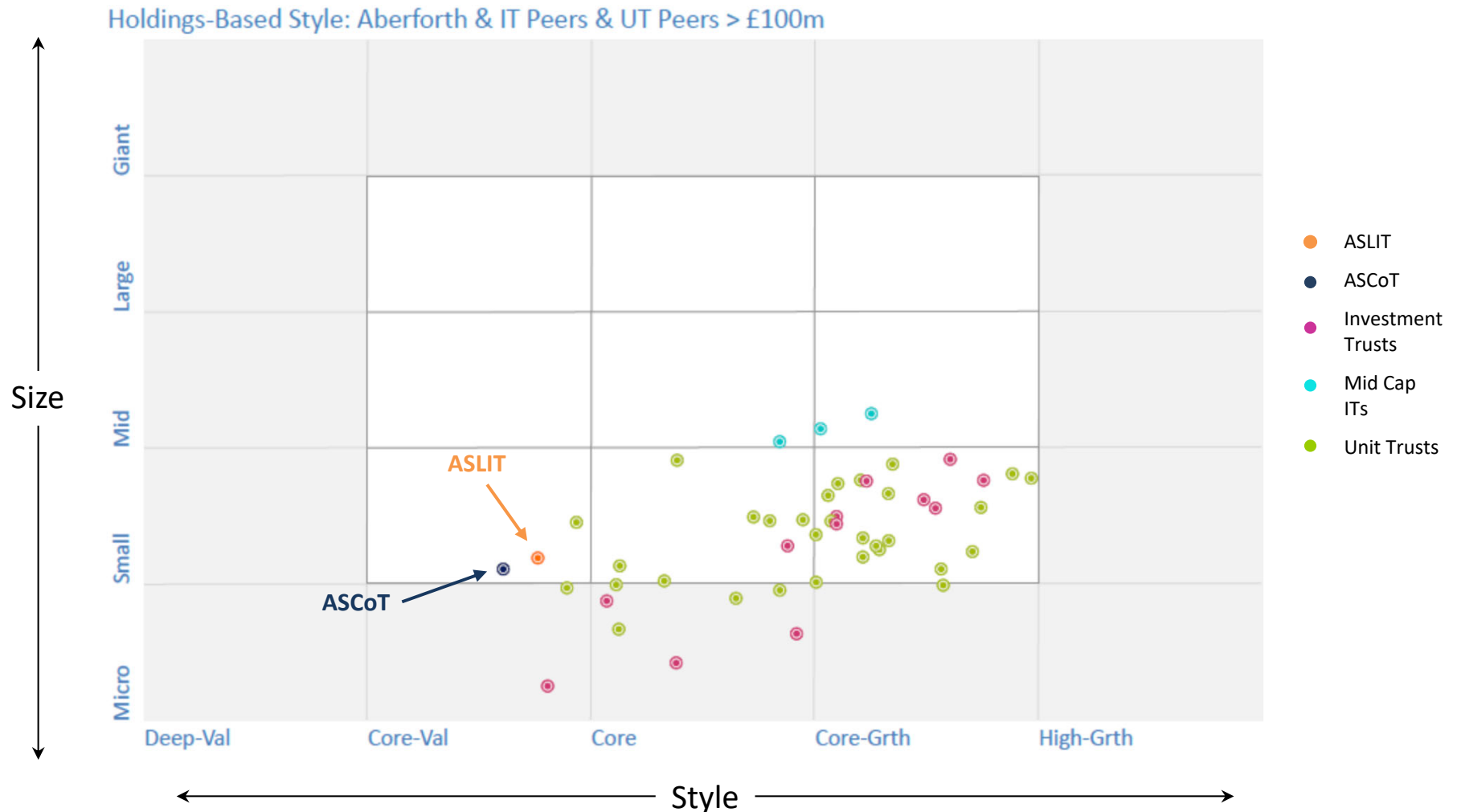
	31 Oct.	Launch
	3.6x	3.4x

The valuation statistics set out above are projected, illustrative and do not represent profit forecasts. There is no guarantee that these returns will be achieved. Terms used above have the same meaning as described further in the glossary on pages 56-57 in the Annual Report for the period ending 30 June 2021.

Morningstar style box categorisation



- Small cap fund positioning by style (x-axis) remain polarised
 - Leftwards shift (i.e. towards value) over the past 12 months



Conclusion



- Demand recovery on track, though note supply chains and energy prices
- Markets' scepticism offers an opportunity in UK assets
 - Corporate activity suggests that others see value
- Inflation is a potential challenge to the status quo in markets
- ASLIT: low valuations, strong balance sheets, ESG opportunity, good ROEs
 - Weighted average upside at 31 October: 53%*
 - Based on current estimates but not a forecast!
 - Ordinary Shares structurally geared
- ASLIT remains highly differentiated from its competitors

* Share price plus two years of dividends



Appendix

Investment managers



SAMUEL G FORD CFA, MEng

Sam joined Aberforth in August 2019 and became a Partner in May 2021. He is responsible for the following sectors - Aerospace & Defense; Alternative Energy; Electronic & Electrical Equipment; Health Care providers; Media; Medical Equipment and Services; Oil, Gas and Coal; Pharmaceuticals and Biotechnology; Technology Hardware and Equipment; and Telecommunications Equipment.

JEREMY G A HALL MA (Hons)

Jeremy joined Aberforth in October 2018 and became a Partner in January 2020. He is responsible for the following sectors - Banks; Beverages; Chemicals; Finance and Credit Services; Food Producers; Industrial Materials; Investment Banking and Brokerage Services; and Tobacco.

SONYA KIM CFA, MFin, BA

Sonya joined Aberforth in March 2021 and is responsible for the following sectors - Construction & Materials and Household Goods & Home Construction.

EUAN R MACDONALD BA (Hons)

Euan joined Aberforth in May 2001 and became a Partner in May 2004. He is responsible for the following sectors - Automobiles & Parts; Consumer Services; General Industrials; Industrial Engineering; Leisure Goods; Life Insurance; Mortgage Real Estate Investment Trusts; Non-life Insurance; Real Estate Investment and Services; Real Estate Investment Trusts; Software & Computer Services; and Telecommunications Service Providers.

KEITH F MUIR CFA, BEng (Hons)

Keith joined Aberforth in March 2011 and became a Partner in May 2014. Keith will retire from Aberforth Partners on 31 December 2021.

PETER R SHAW CA, BCom (Hons)

Peter joined Aberforth in April 2016 and became a Partner in May 2017. He is responsible for the following sectors - Industrial Support Services; Industrial Transportation; Personal Care, Drug and Grocery Stores; Personal Goods; Retailers; and Waste and Disposal Services.

CHRISTOPHER N WATT BSc (Hons)

Chris joined Aberforth in April 2016 and became a Partner in May 2017. He is responsible for the following sectors - Electricity; Gas, Water & Multi-utilities; Industrial Metals & Mining; Precious Metals & Mining; and Travel & Leisure.

Top 20 holdings



Rank	Company	Activity	Total portfolio (%)
1	Reach	UK newspaper publisher	3.8
2	Rathbone Brothers	Private client fund manager	3.6
3	Brewin Dolphin Holdings	Private client fund manager	3.5
4	Redde Northgate	Van rental	3.2
5	Wincanton	Logistics	3.0
6	Morgan Advanced Materials	Manufacture of carbon & ceramic materials	2.8
7	TI Fluid Systems	Automotive parts manufacturer	2.6
8	Bloomsbury Publishing	Independent publishing house	2.5
9	International Personal Finance	Home credit provider	2.4
10	Vesuvius	Metal flow engineering	2.4
11	Vistry Group	Housebuilding	2.4
12	Keller Group	Ground engineering services	2.3
13	Bakkavor Group	Food manufacturer	2.2
14	Centamin	Gold miner	2.2
15	Crest Nicholson Holdings	Housebuilding	2.2
16	Provident Financial	Personal credit provider	2.1
17	Vitec Group	Photographic & broadcast accessories	1.9
18	PayPoint	Alternative payment services	1.9
19	Drax Group	Electricity generation	1.9
20	Wilmington	Business publishing & training	1.9
Top 20			50.7
21 - 30			17.0
31 - 69			32.3
Actively managed portfolio with an active share of 76%			100.0

ASLIT – sector exposures



Sector	NSCI (XIC) weight	ASLIT weight	Significant holdings
Technology	5.5%	2.8%	
Telecommunications	2.0%	0.0%	
Health Care	3.6%	0.0%	
Financials	15.2%	19.6%	Brewin Dolphin Holdings, International Personal Finance, Provident Financial, Rathbone Brothers
Real Estate	8.7%	2.8%	McKay Securities
Consumer Discretionary	20.1%	29.0%	Bloomsbury Publishing, Headlam Group, Reach, TI Fluid Systems, Wilmington, Vistry Group, STV Group, Crest Nicholson Holdings
Consumer Staples	4.8%	4.6%	Bakkavor Group
Industrials	26.4%	32.2%	Eurocell, Keller Group, Morgan Advanced Materials, Paypoint, Robert Walters, RPS Group, Vesuvius, Vitec Group, Wincanton, Redde Northgate, Pagegroup
Basic Materials	6.1%	6.4%	Anglo Pacific Group, Centamin
Energy	4.2%	0.7%	
Utilities	3.4%	1.9%	Drax Group

2021 growth stocks



Securities

4imprint Group	JTC
888 Holdings	Mode Global Holdings
AG Barr	Nanoco Group
Alfa Financial Software Holdings	NCC Group
Allied Minds	On The Beach Group
Aptitude Software Group	Oxford Biomedica
Arix Bioscience	Oxford Instruments
Avon Rubber	Pensana
BATM Advanced Communications	Porvair
Calisen	PPHE Hotel Group
Clarkson	PureTech Health
Clipper Logistics	PZ Cussons
Dignity	Sanne Group
discoverIE Group	SolGold
DP Eurasia	Supply@Me Capital
Esken	Telecom Plus
FDM Group Holdings	The Gym Group
Fisher (James) & Sons	Treatt
Gresham Technologies	Watches of Switzerland Group
HeiQ	XP Power
Helios Towers	Zoetic International
Hilton Food Group	Zotefoams
IP Group	

See slide "Valuation - EV/EBITA" for context

3 collective investment vehicles



	Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust (ASCoT)	Aberforth UK Small Companies Fund (AFUND)	Aberforth Split Level Income Trust (ASLIT)
Inception	December 1990	March 1991	July 2017
Structure	Closed-end	Open-end	Closed-end
Gearing	Tactical = 4.0%	N/A	Structural (ZDPs) = 23.5%
Size (AUM)	£1,574m	£263m	£235m
Number of investee companies	78	78	69
Benchmark	NSCI (XIC)	NSCI (XIC)	N/A
Investment philosophy	Value	Value	Value/Income
Management fees (<i>ongoing charges</i>)	74 bps* (81 bps)	75 bps (77 bps)	99 bps (123 bps)
Performance fee	No	No	No
RDR: platforms	>20	>15	>20
RDR: clean price	N/A	Yes	N/A
Authority: share buyback	Yes	N/A	No
Authority: dividends from capital	No	N/A	No
Chairman	Richard Davidson Richard.Davidson@aberforth.co.uk	N/A	Angus Gordon Lennox Angus.GordonLennox@aberforth.co.uk

* For a full explanation of the fee structure and ongoing charges, please refer to the Fund’s Annual Report or visit www.aberforth.co.uk

Investment trust



Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust plc (ASCoT)

Ordinary shares

88,238,066

- next continuation vote in March 2023 and every 3 years thereafter
- authority to buy-in up to 13,299,587 shares has been granted
- cumulative shares bought-in for cancellation = 10,571,722

Gearing

- as at 31 October 2021 actual was 4.0%
- potential for up to £130m or 8.8%

Dividends

Based on the following historic actuals:

2021

- interim announced July 2021 paid August 2021 (10.95p)

2020

33.30p

- final announced January 2021 paid March 2021 (22.90p)
- interim announced July 2020 paid August 2020 (10.40p)

2019

36.00p

- interim announced July 2019 paid August 2019 (10.00p)
- final announced January 2020 paid March 2020 (22.00p)
- special announced January 2020 paid March 2020 (4.00p)

Note: Further details available in the Fund's Annual Report and from www.aberforth.co.uk

Unit trust



Aberforth UK Small Companies Fund (AFUND)

As 31 October 2021	Issue Price	Cancellation Price	Units in Issue
Accumulation Units	£324.26	£316.99	576,124
Income Units	£228.89	£223.76	347,502

Limited issue fund with Accumulation and Income units

- value at cancellation price: £260m
- no entry or exit charged; dealing spread 2.3% (mid-basis)
- yield on Income units: 1.5%
- current distribution period ends 31 December 2020; paid February 2021
- previous distribution period ended 30 June 2020; paid 28 August 2020
- annual management fee: 0.75%; no performance fee
- 5/8 of management fee allocated to capital

Daily subscriptions and redemptions

- deals can be placed each business day prior to 4.30pm
- dual priced fund; prices calculated using closing prices each business day
- “forward pricing”

Note: Further details available in the Fund’s Annual Report, Prospectus and Key Investor Information Document and from www.aberforth.co.uk

Investment trust



Aberforth Split Level Income Trust plc (ASLIT)

Ordinary shares
190,250,000

- all net income, plus all net assets on a winding up – after ZDP entitlements met

Zero Dividend Preference
(ZDP) shares
47,562,500

- no dividends, but final capital entitlement of 127.25p on planned winding up date

Life

- planned winding up date: 1 July 2024

Gearing

- structural gearing via the ZDP shares

Dividends

Based on the following historic actuals:

2021
3.05p

- First interim paid March 2021 (0.92p)
- Second interim paid August 2021 (2.13p)

2020
4.22p

- First interim paid March 2020 (1.51p)
- Second interim paid August 2020 (2.71p)

2019
4.35p

- First interim paid March 2019 (1.45p)
- Second interim paid August 2019 (2.71p)
- Special paid August 2019 (0.19p)

Note: Further details available in the Fund's Prospectus and from www.aberforth.co.uk

Glossary – Aberforth Funds



- Aberforth's investment philosophy and putting it into practice is explained further at www.aberforth.co.uk/about-Aberforth/
- **Aberforth Standard Value** refers to The Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust plc, Aberforth's longest standing client.
- **Accumulation Units:** units not receiving a cash payment representing income; rather, income will be included in the value of the units.
- **Active Share** is calculated by summing the absolute differences between a portfolio's weight in a stock and an index's weight in a stock for all the stocks in the portfolio or index. The total is then divided by two to give a ratio between 0% and 100%.
- **AUM:** Assets Under Management.
- **CAGR:** Compound Annual Growth Rate is the annualised rate of growth over the specified time period.
- **Cancellation** refers to the cancellation of units by the Trustee.
- **Discount** is the amount by which the stockmarket price is lower than the Net Asset Value, or NAV, per Ordinary Share. The discount is normally expressed as a percentage of the NAV per Ordinary Share. The opposite of a discount is a premium.
- **DPS:** Dividend Per Share.
- **ESG:** Environmental, Social and Governance.
- **EV/EBITA:** Enterprise Value divided by Earnings Before Interest, Tax and Amortisation.
- **EV/EBITDA:** Enterprise Value divided by Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation.
- **Funds:** **ASCoT** – The Aberforth Smaller Companies Trust plc; **ASLIT** – Aberforth Split Level Income Trust plc; **AFUND** – Aberforth UK Small Companies Fund.
- **Gearing** is the use of debt to increase capital.
- **Issue** refers to the issue of units by the Trustee.
- **Hurdle rate** is the rate of capital growth per annum to return a stated amount per share at the planned winding-up date.
- **Income Units** entitle the holder to a cash distribution representing the net income attributable to that unit at each income allocation date.
- **IPO:** Initial Public Offering.
- **Leverage** is a measurement of the use of debt.
- **M&A:** Mergers and Acquisitions.
- **Net Asset Value (ZDP Share)** is the value of the entitlement to the ZDP Shareholders.
- **NSCI (XIC):** The Numis Smaller Companies Index (excluding Investment Companies).
- **PE:** The price-earnings ratio (P/E ratio).

Glossary – Aberforth Funds



- **Redemption Yield (Ordinary Share)** is the annualised rate at which projected future income and capital cash flows (based on assumed future capital/dividend growth rates) is discounted to produce an amount equal to the share price at the date of calculation.
- **Redemption Yield (ZDP Share)** is the annualised rate at which the total discounted value of the planned future payment of capital equates to its share price at the date of calculation.
- **Retained Revenue:** the accumulated income that has not been distributed.
- **Rump** is the Tracked Universe, adjusted to exclude the growth stocks.
- **Terminal NAV (Ordinary Share)** is the projected NAV per Ordinary Share at the planned winding-up date at a stated rate of capital growth in the company's investment portfolio after taking into account the final capital entitlement of the ZDP Shares, future estimated costs charged to capital and estimated winding-up costs.
- **Tracked Universe** refers to those constituents of the NSCI (XIC) that Aberforth follows closely and whose financial characteristics are aggregated on internal systems.
- **Total return:** capital appreciation plus reinvested dividends.
- **Turnover** is calculated by summing the lesser of purchases and sales and dividing by the average portfolio value.
- **Unit:** an equal portion representing part ownership of a unit trust fund.
- **Value style:** the strategy by which all Aberforth's portfolios are invested.
- **Value Premium:** the relative out/(under) performance of the value investment style.
- **ZDP:** Zero Dividend Preference shares are a share class that receive no dividends. Instead, holders receive a fixed capital payment on the redemption date.



Important information

Important information



- Throughout this presentation references to: SMALL COMPANIES mean constituents of the Numis Smaller Companies Index (Excluding Investment Companies) which are referred to as “NSCI (XIC)”; LARGE COMPANIES mean constituents of the FTSE All-Share Index which are referred to as “FTAS”; total return means with dividends reinvested (prior to 2.7.97 with gross dividends reinvested thereafter with net dividends reinvested); and Aberforth clients’ portfolio characteristics use one of Aberforth’s “Standard Value” clients as representative unless otherwise stated.
- Sources of data used in the presentation are detailed on the relevant pages. Source references to London Business School refer to Numis/Paul Marsh and Elroy Dimson – London Business School.
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Risk warnings



- Capital may be at risk as the value of investments may go down as well as up and is not guaranteed; therefore investors may not get back the amount originally invested.
- Past performance is not a guide to future performance, nor a reliable indicator of future results or performance.
- Investments in shares of smaller companies are generally considered to carry a higher degree of risk as the market for their shares is often less liquid than that for shares of larger companies, making shares of smaller companies more difficult to buy and sell. Smaller companies can also be expected, in comparison to larger companies, to have less mature businesses, a more restricted depth of management and a higher risk profile.
- The performance of shares of smaller companies may be more volatile than the shares of larger companies over short time periods; therefore investors should regard such investments as long term.
- Unless the performance of an investment meets or exceeds the rate of inflation, the real value of that investment will reduce.
- Changes in economic or political conditions or other factors can substantially and potentially adversely affect the value of investments and, accordingly, the performance and prospects of the funds managed by Aberforth Partners LLP .
- The market price of securities issued by the fund may fluctuate significantly and investors may not be able to sell their securities at or above the price at which they acquired them. Securities markets have in the past experienced extreme volatility that has often been unrelated to the operating performance of particular companies. Any broad market fluctuations may adversely affect the market price of the securities issued by the fund.
- There can be no guarantee that the investment objective of the fund will be achieved or provide the returns sought by the fund.
- An investment trust is a public limited company, the shares of which are traded on the main market of the London Stock Exchange. Investment trusts are not authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.
- An investment trust is a closed-ended company and its shareholders will have no right to have their shares redeemed or repurchased by the company at any time. Accordingly, the ability of shareholders to realise any value in respect of their shares will be dependent on the existence of a liquid market in the shares and the market price of the shares. The shares may trade at a discount to their net asset value.

Risk warnings



- An investment trust may only pay dividends to the extent that it has distributable profits available for that purpose. A reduction in the income from an investment trust's portfolio could adversely affect the yield, if any, on its shares.
- Investment trusts may borrow money in order to make further investments. This is known as “gearing”. The effect of gearing can enhance returns to shareholders in rising markets but will have the opposite effect on returns in falling markets.
- The Ordinary Shares of Aberforth Split Level Income Trust plc are geared by the Zero Dividend Preference Shares of the company and rank for repayment of capital after the Zero Dividend Preference Shares and any creditors of the company. A positive net asset value for those Ordinary Shares will be dependent upon the company's assets being sufficient to meet the prior capital entitlements of the holders of the Zero Dividend Preference Shares. The Ordinary Shares should therefore be regarded as carrying above average risk. The Zero Dividend Preference Shares are not a protected or guaranteed investment. In particular, should the company be wound up prior to its planned winding up date, holders of Zero Dividend Preference Shares would only receive their accrued capital entitlement to the date of winding up which would be less than the final anticipated capital entitlement of those shares.
- Tax legislation and the levels of relief from taxation can change at any time. Any change in the tax status of a Fund or in tax legislation could affect the value of the investments held by the Fund or affect its ability to provide returns to its investors. The tax treatment of an investment, and any dividends received, will depend on the individual circumstances of the investor and may be subject to change in the future. If investors are in any doubt as to their tax position, they should consult their professional adviser.
- An investment in the fund is only suitable for investors who are capable of evaluating the merits and risks of such an investment and who have sufficient resources to be able to bear any losses which may arise from such an investment (which may be equal to the whole amount invested). Such an investment should be regarded as long term in nature and complementary to existing investments in a range of other financial assets and should not form a major part of an investment portfolio.