

Monthly commentary

“ **Witan’s composite benchmark rose by 0.2% while Witan’s NAV total return declined 0.1%, with modest outperformance at the portfolio level offset by the adverse effect of declining gilt yields on the value of our structural debt. The discount narrowed by 1%.** ”

July was a mixed, though ultimately marginally positive, month for global equity performance. During the month, markets experienced a sharp though moderate and short-lived setback, with nerves affected by rising Delta variant cases and concern that the risks to the recovery had increased. The US and European markets were up c 1.7% and 1.5% respectively and the UK by 0.7%, in contrast to Emerging Markets (-7.3%) and the Pacific Basin (-5.5%), which were held back by adverse pandemic news and negative reactions to political developments in the Chinese market affecting the operating rules for a number of widely-held companies. Witan’s composite benchmark rose by 0.2% while Witan’s NAV total return declined 0.1%, with modest outperformance at the portfolio level offset by the adverse effect of declining gilt yields on the value of our structural debt. The discount narrowed by 1%.

It is harder than usual to rationalise the recent contrasting behaviour of equity and bond markets. Bond prices rose, despite higher-than-expected inflation and evidence of strong growth in most major economies which would normally lead to falling bond prices. These developments might be expected to prompt central banks to reduce their emergency liquidity assistance to markets and bring forward the expected date of higher (or indeed any) interest rates. Equities, having wavered during the month, in the end followed the signals from strong earnings and dividend announcements to finish on a positive trend that continued into early August.

Amongst the main buys and sells within the portfolio this month, the main transaction was an investment of £18m (c 1% of net assets) in Lindenwood, a fund investing in unquoted high growth technology companies, seeking the next generation of technology winners. It is managed by Greenoaks Capital, a San Francisco-based partnership with a successful record of backing such companies in the past. The fund is expected to list on the London Stock Exchange in 1-2 years, once more fully invested. This was partly funded by reducing the US market ETF holding. Other transactions included reductions in some Chinese internet companies.

With effect from this month, Witan’s portfolio will be released in full as at the most recent month end, rather than, as previously, with a 3-month lag. This is with the aim of full transparency and will help those investors wishing to track the look-through exposures of portfolios containing Witan and other collective funds.

[Witan’s first half results](#), released on 10th August, showed a 12.4% total return, ahead of the 11.4% from our benchmark. A second interim dividend of 1.36p (payable on 17 September, the ex-dividend date being 19 August) means that payments for the period are 2.72p (2020: 2.68p). The Board expects the payment for the full year to be higher than 2020, which (subject to circumstances) would be a 47th consecutive annual increase. Witan’s CEO, Andrew Bell, discusses the results and the investment outlook in a video, available via this [link](#).

Further information about the Company is available on Witan’s website, www.witan.com

31 July 2021



Share price 244.00p	NAV per Share† 262.05p	Premium (Discount) (6.9%)
Gross assets £2.2bn	Yield 2.23%	Gearing 10.1%

Source BNP Paribas 31.07.2021

†NAV is cum income with debt at fair value.

Investment objective

Achieve an investment total return exceeding that of the Company’s benchmark over the long term, together with growth in the dividend ahead of inflation.

Our investment approach

A one-stop shop for global equity investment, offering growth in capital and income.

We search for the best managers around the world to create a portfolio diversified by region, investment sector and individual company level. Our multi-manager approach also reduces the potential risks arising from reliance on a single manager. Our highly experienced Board of directors and Executive have many years’ collective experience of both managing assets, selecting managers and of delivering sound, independent governance.

Investment team



ANDREW BELL
CEO



JAMES HART
Investment Director

Manager breakdown

Manager	Strategy	%
Core		
Lansdowne Partners	Global	20
Veritas	Global	18
Lindsell Train	Global	14
WCM	Global	11
Jennison	Global	6
Artemis	UK	6
Specialist		
GQG Partners	Emerging	6
Direct holdings	Specialist Funds	11
GMO	Climate Change	4
Latitude	Global	1
Lindenwood	Emerging Technology	1
ETF		
S&P 500 ETF	US	2

***Please remember, past performance is not a guide to future performance, and the value of shares and the income from them can rise and fall, so investors may not get back the amount originally invested.**

Portfolio overview

Top 20 holdings (%)

GMO Climate Change Fund	3.7
Apax Global Alpha	2.9
Vanguard S&P 500 ETF	2.1
Alphabet	2.0
Princess Private Equity	1.8
Electra Private Equity	1.5
Unilever	1.4
Taiwan Semiconductor	1.4
Syncona	1.3
Charter Communications	1.3
BlackRock World Mining Trust	1.3
ArcelorMittal	1.3
Diageo	1.3
PayPal	1.1
Intuit	1.1
Heineken	1.1
Schroder Real Estate Investment Trust	1.0
Thermo Fisher Scientific	1.0
BT	1.0
NatWest	0.9

Top 10 Holdings **19.4**

Top 20 Holdings **30.5**

Regional breakdown (%)

North America	39
UK	21
Europe	17
Asia	7
Japan	3
Other	1
Investment Companies	12

Sector breakdown (%)

Information Technology	15
Industrials	13
Health Care	10
Financials	10
Communication Services	10
Consumer Staples	10
Materials	9
Consumer Discretionary	8
Utilities	1
Energy	1
Investment Companies	12

Portfolio characteristics

Active share (%)	76
Number of holdings	276
as at 30.06.21	

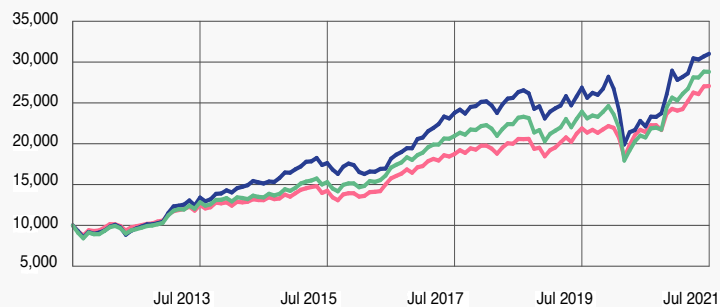
Portfolio changes (%)

Top Purchases	£'000
Lindenwood	18,138
LAM Research	4,867
Facebook	2,861
Taiwan Semiconductor	2,828
Hong Kong Exchanges & Clearing	2,221
Biontech	2,120
Top Sales	
Tencent	8,583
Nestle	7,334
Vanguard S&P 500 ETF	7,192
Synopsys	4,952
Wuxi Biologics Cayman	2,714
Syncona	2,560

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
Source: BNP Paribas as at 31.07.21.

Performance and dividends*

Value of £10,000 invested over 10 years is £31,017 †



Total performance (%) †

Growth to 31.07.2021	3m	6m	1yr	3yrs	5yrs	10yrs
■ Share Price	1.8	11.5	40.2	17.8	70.8	210.2
■ Net Asset Value ‡	2.4	13.9	38.7	24.2	68.8	188.0
■ Benchmark #	3.1	12.5	26.3	31.5	71.8	170.7
NAV-Benchmark Relative	-0.6	1.3	12.4	-7.3	-3.1	17.4

Relative numbers may not add up due to rounding.

† Source: Morningstar / Witan, total return includes the notional reinvestment of dividends.

‡ The Net Asset Value figures value debt at fair value.

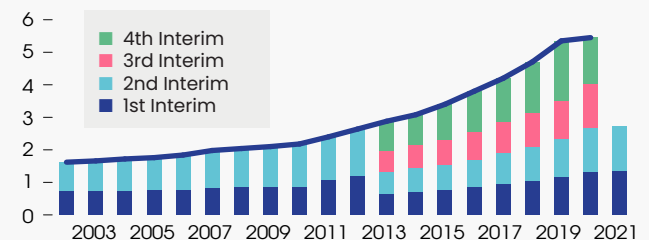
Witan's benchmark is a composite of 85% Global (MSCI All Country World Index) and 15% UK (MSCI UK IMI Index). From 01.01.2017 to 31.12.2019 the benchmark was 30% UK, 25% North America, 20% Asia Pacific, 20% Europe (ex UK), 5% Emerging Markets. From 01.10.2007 to 31.12.2016 the benchmark was 40% UK, 20% North America, 20% Europe (ex UK) and 20% Asia Pacific.

For more information go to www.witan.com/support/legal-information.

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Dividend history (pence per share)

46 years of consecutive dividend growth



Changed to quarterly dividend payments in 2013.

Discrete performance (%) †

Q2 2016	Q2 2017	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Q2 2020
Q2 2017	Q2 2018	Q2 2019	Q2 2020	Q2 2021
36.2	10.9	0.6	-11.6	34.7
28.0	8.7	2.8	-8.9	37.3
22.8	8.5	6.1	2.3	24.5
5.2	0.2	-3.3	-11.1	12.9

Trust Information

Epic Code	WTAN
AIC Sector	Global
Launch Date	1909
Financial Year End	31 December
Dividend Frequency	Quarterly
Next Ex Dividend Date	19 August 2021
AGM	April
Shares in Issue (ex. treasury)	765,572,060
Ongoing Charges [†]	
Excluding performance fee	0.78%
Including performance fee	0.82%

Source: BNP Paribas as at 31.07.21. [†]Ongoing charges as disclosed in the Annual Report for the year ended 31.12.20. Information about other costs is also included in the Company's Key Information Document (KID) and disclosed in the table on page 41 of the 2020 Annual Report, both of which may be found on the Company's website.

Board of Directors



ANDREW ROSS
Chairman



ANDREW BELL
CEO



GABRIELLE BOYLE
Non Executive Director



RACHEL BEAGLES
Non Executive Director



SUZY NEUBERT
Non Executive Director



JACK PERRY
Non Executive Director



BEN ROGOFF
Non Executive Director



PAUL YATES
Non Executive Director

How to invest

Witan's shares can be traded through any UK stockbroker and most share dealing services, including online platforms that offer investment trusts.

Online platforms

A growing number of platforms offer investment trusts directly to investors including AJ Bell Youinvest, Barclays Smart Investor, Fidelity, Hargreaves Lansdown, Halifax Share Dealing Limited and Interactive Investor.

Advisers

Advisers who wish to purchase Witan shares for their clients can do so via a stockbroker or via a growing number of dedicated platforms. These include AJ Bell Investcentre, FundsNetwork, Nucleus, Novio, Transact and Standard Life Wrap.

For more information on the online platforms and how you can invest, [click here](#)

Please read the most recent Witan Key Information Document (KID) before placing an investment in Witan Investment Trust, which is available on the website www.witan.com.

Important information

This marketing communication is provided for informational purposes only and should not be construed as constituting an offer or a solicitation to buy or sell interests or investments in Witan Investment Trust plc. Any reference to individual securities does not constitute a recommendation to purchase, sell or hold the investment.

Please remember that past performance is not a guide to future performance. Witan Investment Trust is an equity investment. The value of an investment and the income from it can fall as well as rise as a result of currency and market fluctuations and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Investment trusts can borrow money to make additional investments on top of shareholders' funds (gearing). If the value of these investments falls gearing will magnify the negative impact on performance. The share price may trade above and below the NAV per share representing either a premium or discount to the share price respectively.

www.witan.com

This marketing communication is issued and approved by Witan Investment Services Limited. Witan Investment Services Limited is registered in England no. 5272533 of 14 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AA. Witan Investment Services Limited provides investment services and is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Calls may be recorded for our mutual protection and to improve customer service.