

VT Downing Unique Opportunities Fund

June 2025 commentary

June saw the price of accumulation units in the fund rise by 0.87%, versus a 1.37% rise in the peer group, the IA UK All Companies TR Index. There were 26 risers and 12 fallers in the portfolio over what was a positive month overall for UK small and mid-cap businesses, particularly those with a domestic focus. Key drivers behind the rally include easing geopolitical tensions and expectations that the BoE will cut interest rates, which have improved investor sentiment.

Tatton Asset Management (+11.02%), an investment management and IFA support services group, issued FY results and highlighted record net inflows of £3.7bn, which drove strong double-digit organic growth in revenue and profits. Both were comfortably at the top end of market expectations. The group has made progress towards its stated target of having £30bn AUM by the end of 2029.

Elementis (+14.13%), a speciality chemicals company, completed the sale of its talc business and announced that most of the proceeds would be returned to investors via a share buyback programme that commenced at the end of May. The share price has climbed fairly steadily since then.

The most significant detractors to performance were Alfa Financial Software (-6.42%) and GlobalData (-18.86%). Alfa Financial Software, a provider of software and related services to the auto and equipment finance industry, issued no significant news in June. Despite the fall in the share price, sentiment toward the business appears bullish, with five analysts recommending a buy and no hold or sell ratings.

GlobalData, a data, insights and analytics platform, confirmed that it had received a preliminary conditional proposal from ICG regarding a possible cash offer. On 11 June, the GlobalData board announced that it had terminated discussions with ICG regarding the proposal. It remains confident in the group's prospects, including through the implementation of the three-year Growth Transformation Plan and the target for annualised revenues of £500m by the end of 2026.

Opinions expressed represent the views of the fund manager at the time of publication, are subject to change, and should not be interpreted as investment advice.

About the fund

The fund aims to have a portfolio of 25-40 holdings. As Fund Manager, Josh McCathie seeks to invest in equities he considers to have a unique outlook and opportunity for growth. These businesses will be identified as having enduring competitive advantages that are difficult to replicate, which can create high barriers for new entrants and have the potential to generate superior returns over the long term.

Investment objective

The fund's objective is to achieve capital growth and income over the long term (five+ years). It seeks to invest at least 80% in equities listed on UK markets (including the London Stock Exchange and AIM). The remainder will be invested in other equities, fixed income, money market instruments, deposits, warrants, cash and near cash.

The unique characteristics sought include:

- Having intangible assets e.g. brands, patents or regulatory licenses
- Having cost advantages stemming from process, location, scale or access to a unique asset
- Being the leading network in a business segment
- There being high switching costs, which generate high customer retention rates

Cumulative performance (%)								
	1m	3m	6m	YTD	1y	3y	5y	Since Launch*
VT DUO A Acc	0.87	10.25	2.10	2.10	-1.64	18.68	39.30	59.87
IA UK All Companies TR Index	1.37	7.44	7.69	7.69	8.74	30.03	51.92	77.51
Quartile ranking	3	1	4	4	4	4	3	4
Position	118/219	50/218	205/218	205/218	203/214	178/212	146/202	156/202

*25 March 2020

Discrete performance (%)					
	30/06/2024 - 30/06/2025	30/06/2023 - 30/06/2024	30/06/2022 - 30/06/2023	30/06/2021 - 30/06/2022	30/06/2020 - 30/06/2021
VT DUO A Acc	-1.64	14.62	5.27	-21.05	48.67
IA UK All Companies TR Index	8.74	12.60	6.20	-8.49	27.66
Quartile ranking	4	1	3	4	1
Position	203/214	49/213	146/212	186/207	13/202

Please note that past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

Source for performance, FE Analytics



Josh McCathie
Fund Manager

Josh McCathie serves as the Manager to the VT Downing Unique Opportunities Fund and VT Downing Small & Mid-Cap Income Fund.

Josh joined Downing in 2018 and brings over 10 years' investment management experience, having previously worked at BRI Wealth Management focusing on research of UK equities.

Josh is a CFA charterholder.

Top 10 portfolio holdings	%
Diploma Plc	5.12
Games Workshop Group Plc	4.50
Rightmove Plc	4.36
Mortgage Advice Bureau (Holdings) Plc	4.28
Softcat Plc	4.15
Auto Trader Group Plc	4.12
Alfa Financial Software Holdings Plc	4.04
Rotork Plc	3.87
A.G.Barr Plc	3.71
dotDigital Group Plc	3.51

Source: Valu-Trac Investment Management Ltd.



As at 1 December 2024

Portfolio summary

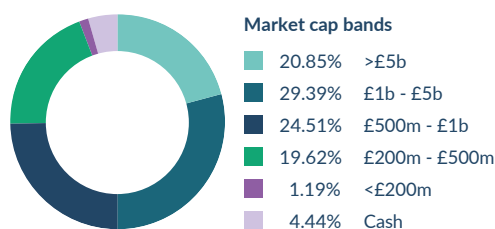
As at 30 June 2025

Portfolio by sector



Source: Valu-Trac Investment Management Ltd

Portfolio by company size



Source: Factset

Distribution

Period end	Ex Dividend	Date Payment	A Acc (GBp)	A Inc (GBp)
Dec-21	31/12/2021	28/02/2022	1.5653	1.5782
Jun-22	30/06/2022	31/08/2022	1.9295	1.9287
Dec-22	30/12/2022	28/02/2023	1.4374	1.4162
Jun-23	30/06/2023	31/08/2023	2.4066	2.3478
Dec-23	31/12/2023	29/02/2024	1.8575	1.7814
Jun-24	30/06/2024	31/08/2024	2.3148	2.1926
Dec-24	31/12/2024	28/02/2025	1.8758	1.7514
Jun-25	30/06/2025	29/08/2025	2.6949	2.4861*

Distributions are subject to change and should not be utilised as a basis for an investment decision.

Source: Valu-Trac Investment Management Ltd

*Estimated

Key facts (As at 30 June 2025)

Structure:

London listed Open Ended Investment Company (OEIC), established as a "UCITS scheme".

Launch date:

Income: 17 March 2020
Accumulation: 25 March 2020

Fund size:

£27.77m (Accumulation and Income share classes combined)

Share price:

Class A: 159.8744p (Acc.)
Class A: 145.0032p (Inc.)

No of holdings:

35

Minimum initial investment:

Class A lump sum: £1,000

Dividends:

Semi-annual

Liquidity:

Daily pricing and daily dealing

ISA eligible:

Yes

Sector:

IA UK All Companies Sector

ISIN codes:

Class A Accumulation: GB00BHNC2614
Class A Income: GB00BHNC2721

Fund charges:

Initial charge: 0%
Annual management charge: 0.75% p.a.
Ongoing charges* 1.00% p.a.

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How to apply

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or visit: <https://www.valu-trac.com/administration-services/clients/downing/unique-opportunities/>

Also on the following platforms:

- Abrdn - Wrap
- Abrdn - Wrap DFM Hub
- Abrdn - Elevate
- Aegon
- Aegon Platform
- AJ Bell
- AJ Bell - Investcentre
- Allfunds EO
- M&G/ Ascentric
- Aviva
- Canada Life
- Embark Platform/Scottish Widows
- FNZ
- FNZ Institutional
- Halifax
- Hargreaves Lansdown
- Hubwise
- Interactive Investor
- Iweb
- James Hay
- J Brearley
- Nucleus
- Quilter
- Raymond James
- Seccl
- Selftrade/Equi

- Seven IM
- Standard Life
- Scottish Widows - Fund Supermarket
- Stocktrade (Embank Group)
- Transact
- Utmost

We are currently working with other platforms so please let us know if yours is not listed above.

For more information about this fund please visit: downingunique.co.uk

* Please note: The ongoing charges figure is based on expenses and the net asset value as at 12 June 2025. This figure may vary from year to year. It excludes portfolio transaction costs. The Funds annual report for each financial year will include detail on the exact charges made.

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