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With just two weeks to go before the launch of [Woodford Patient Capital Trust](#), Neil discusses the lack of British business behemoths and explains why attractive valuations can mitigate the risks of investing in early-stage and early-growth businesses.

[Find out more](#)

What are the risks?

- Long-term outcomes are more binary – extremely attractive rewards for success but some businesses will inevitably fail to fulfil their potential and this may expose investors to the risk of capital losses
- As it can take years for young businesses to fulfil their potential, this investment requires patience
- The value of the trust as well as any income it pays will fluctuate which may partly be the result of exchange rate changes
- The price of shares in the trust is determined by market supply and demand, and this may be different to the net asset value of the trust. This means the price may be volatile in response to changes in demand
- The trust may invest in overseas securities and be exposed to currencies other than pound sterling – as a result, exchange rate movements may cause the sterling value of investments to decrease or increase
- The trust may invest in unquoted securities, which may be less liquid and more difficult to value, because they are generally not publicly traded – the lack of an open market may also make it more difficult to establish fair value
- Young businesses have a different risk profile to mature blue-chip companies – risks are much more stock-specific, which implies a lower correlation with equity markets and the wider economy

Important information

We do not give investment advice so you need to decide if an investment is suitable for you. If you are unsure whether to invest, you should contact a financial adviser. The trust currently intends to conduct its affairs so that its securities can be recommended by IFAs to ordinary retail investors in accordance with the FCA's rules in relation to non-mainstream investment products and intends to continue to do so for the foreseeable future. The securities are excluded from the FCA's restrictions which apply to non-mainstream investment products because they are shares in an investment trust.

WHERE ARE THE BRITISH BUSINESS BEHEMOTHS?

Mitchell Fraser-Jones, 1 April 2015

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