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Geiger Counter (GCL)

The uranium miners have pulled back this year despite supportive fundamentals.

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Overview

Investment objective

To provide investors with the potential for capital growth through investment primarily in the securities of companies involved in the exploration, development and production of energy, predominantly within the uranium industry.

Source: Morningstar, GCL

As at: 16/11/2026	Latest Market Capitalisation £47,373,226
Trust Name Geiger Counter	Latest Net Gearing (Cum Fair) 20%
Ticker GCL	Latest Ongoing Charge Ex Perf Fee 2.11%
Management Company New City Investment Managers Ltd	Shares Outstanding 118,433,066
Manager Name Craig Bethune; Diana Racanelli;	(Discount)/ Premium (Cum Fair) -7.0%
Association of Investment Companies (AIC) Sector Commodities & Natural Resources	Daily Closing Price 40p
Dividend Yield 0.0%	
Dividend Distribution Frequency None	

Geiger Counter (GCL) is the only active fund investing in the uranium industry. In October 2026, new lead manager Diana Racanelli and co-manager Craig Bethune were appointed long-term, having taken day-to-day control of the portfolio in May following the resignation of the previous team. Management therefore remains with Manulife CQS, but with a team based in Canada, the most important geography for the industry, and one with decades of mining experience and backed by analytical resource.

Uranium is in a secular bull market which has seen the commodity and the miners deliver exceptional returns since 2022, albeit with plenty of volatility. Diana maintains a bullish outlook for the coming years, highlighting the current supply deficit which is expected to widen sharply from 2034. She has made limited changes to the portfolio so far, largely adjusting weights and bringing down the largest position in NexGen to 23% from 27%.

Operational progress has been strong in the **Portfolio** this year, with the largest holdings achieving permits or getting mines into production. Meanwhile, megacap tech continues to invest heavily in new nuclear capacity, as a global rush for new power sources continues. Yet the uranium miners have been weak, and GCL's shares too. The NAV is down c. 34% year-to-date, following a strong 2025.

GCL's highly active approach brings a slight tilt to small- and mid-caps and significant gearing (13.9% as at 30/09/2026), which magnifies losses in down markets but also the return potential in rising markets. The discount can also be volatile, and at the time of writing is 7%.

Analyst's View

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As we discuss in the **Performance section**, there is no obvious reason in the fundamentals for the sell-off in uranium this year. It seems to be a case of reduced risk appetite, investors taking AI-exposed risk off the table, and perhaps hedge fund de-grossing ahead of the US midterm elections. Volatility has always been par for the course with uranium, but we don't see that anything has changed in the long-term bull case. As such, we think the recent pull-back is an opportunity to add to a position or for latecomers to initiate one. However, the volatility of the market, the political and strategic importance of the industry, the gearing in GCL's shares and the high-risk nature of the mining industry all argue that this is an investment for investors with a high tolerance for risk. GCL's small- and mid-cap tilt and use of gearing should help maximise the return potential in a bull market, while obviously bringing downside risk too. Meanwhile, we think the ability to invest actively is particularly attractive given ongoing geopolitical tensions which managers can consider – GCL remains tilted to North American production and away from assets that could fall under the influence of Russia or China.

The personnel on the management team may have changed, but Diana's decades of experience covering the mining industry and the resources behind her at Manulife CQS mean we think the trust remains in good hands. We don't expect major changes to the approach, although she has dialled back the risk a little since taking control, albeit in the context of a falling market.

Bull

- A looming supply shortfall of uranium should be bullish for prices
- Active approach brings potential for alpha and ability to manage geopolitical risks
- Investment in nuclear to power AI could surprise to the upside

Bear

- Volatility in NAV and share price to be expected, with fund-level gearing contributing
- Highly concentrated portfolio brings stock-specific risk
- A drawdown in the AI sector could affect nuclear negatively

Portfolio

Geiger Counter (GCL) is the only active fund focused exclusively on the uranium mining industry. Active management brings the ability to consider the geopolitical dimension to the strategically important uranium industry, particularly in focus at present in an era of rising geopolitical tension and massive planned expansion of nuclear power capacity. GCL can also employ gearing and has done so at a meaningful level, and has historically tilted towards the smaller players in the industry. Additionally, it can add less liquid names, off-benchmark positions and take advantage of IPOs and other deals like warrants, all of which differentiate it from an ETF.

Diana Racanelli, lead manager, and Craig Bethune took over day-to-day management in May 2026, before being formally appointed in October following a board review after the previous team resigned from Manulife CQS. They tell us not to expect fundamental change in approach. They share the previous managers' bullish outlook for the industry over the medium to long-term, which is based on a global need to massively expand power capacity and a looming huge supply deficit for the commodity. There is good visibility on new supply coming to market given the relative scarcity of the mineral and the long time it takes to get a new project to production, which means that the setup for the uranium price looks very positive, assuming currently planned projects are advanced.

Since taking over, Diana, with the assistance of analyst Olivia Chamie, has been reevaluating all the companies in the portfolio, meeting management teams every day and building relationships. The number of holdings has come down a little to 42, but this is largely due to warrants expiring. They have reduced the position in NexGen, which was as high as 27.8% when we last updated our research in February. While they like the company, which is developing the largest and highest quality new asset in the world, they are comfortable lowering exposure. NexGen achieved final permits for its Rook1 project in March, which means the construction phase has begun, and Diana (a long-term mining specialist) notes that this

brings the potential for various delays, financing requirements and capex spend which could see some volatility in the share price. That said, NexGen remains the largest position at 20.8% as of the end of September, although we understand this may change as a result of risk analysis.

TOP TEN HOLDINGS

NAME	% OF NET ASSETS
NexGen Energy	20.80%
Paladin Energy	14.80%
UR-Energy	12.20%
Cameco	6.50%
Denison Mines	5.70%
IsoEnergy	4.90%
Energy Fuels	4.10%
Sprott Physical Uranium	3.90%
NAC Kazatomprom JSC	2.90%
Cosa Resources	1.90%
Top 10 Holdings Represent	77.60%

Source: GCL, Kepler calculations as at 30/09/2026

In general, the industry and GCL's portfolio have seen lots of positive news from the bottom-up this year. This hasn't been reflected in the share price returns, largely for what we believe are technical, sentiment and macro reasons, as we discuss in the **Performance section**. The trust's second-biggest holding and a 14.8% position, Paladin Energy, delivered 71% revenue growth in the 2026 financial year, boosted by the restart of production from the Langer Heinrich mine in Namibia, which had been mothballed during the long bear market post-Fukushima. Paladin has now graduated from developer to producer, giving it operating cash flow and a base for the development of its Patterson Lake South asset in Canada which it is looking to bring into production, and which has the potential to produce substantially more uranium a year than Langer Heinrich. The restart and expansion of existing assets have become attractive in the short-term given the looming supply deficit, but will not be enough to meet expected demand, and so the deficit is expected to widen in the 2030s, even when including the huge potential of NexGen's Rook 1.

US-focused Ur-Energy is another substantial position, at 12.2%. It began mining operations at its Shirley Basin mine in Wyoming in April, and moved to full operations in June. Meanwhile, Denison took its Phoenix mine at the Wheeler River Project, Canada, from permit in February to beginning construction in August. Production is expected to begin in 2028. Cameco's 2026 has been more mixed. Problems with the sulphuric acid plant serving its Cigar Lake mine meant mining was briefly suspended, although the company didn't change production guidance. It has since had to lower the top-end of that guidance very slightly due to a planned maintenance outage at a different mine, plus some other financial factors.

Diana intends to maintain the preference for North American assets within the portfolio, or those which are within Western influence rather than that of Russia or China. Geopolitical tension is increasing the focus on energy security, and nuclear power is critical to the planned expansion of capacity, particular for AI, which is a technology with profound national security implications. This means investors have to be aware of political risk in this industry, with the potential for export

bans, tariffs, nationalisations or other state interference. As a recent example, the president of Kazakhstan proposed the country create a strategic uranium reserve by the end of 2027. Whether this would be for the country's own use or kept as a stockpile for either Russia or China to draw on could be questioned, but in any case it means some of Kazatomprom's untapped resources may never reach the open market. It illustrates the potential for supply to be sequestered to certain countries, and if other countries follow Kazakhstan's lead, this could be another tailwind for the commodity price while increasing the risks in being a foreign owner of companies operating in rival jurisdictions.

Showing the potential for politics to provide buying opportunities too, one company Diana has been adding to is Global Atomic. This company owns assets in Niger, and following a coup in 2023, relations with the US became troubled and some licenses were revoked. However, improving relations have led to the US agreeing a funding package for Global Atomic's Dasa mine in the country, which is 80% owned by the company and 20% by Niger's government. We think this funding package illustrates the global competition for uranium supply in an era of resource nationalism which is bullish for the commodity, but also makes a good argument for active management in the industry. Another risk factor the managers have to balance is their weighting to producers like Cameco or Ur-Energy, and developers like NexGen or Global Atomic. The portfolio is fairly evenly split, with 47% in producers as of the end of May and 42% in developers, with 8% in explorers and a 2% holding in physical uranium.

The strategic importance of nuclear power has been magnified by the artificial intelligence race. This year, the national security importance of the industry has been highlighted by rumours of its use in the Gulf war, as well as a series of cyber-attacks. In the meantime, civilian use of AI has rapidly grown for business and consumer purposes. In recent months, there has been some weakness in AI-related equities, with the market worrying about valuation and whether high growth rates can be maintained, and we think uranium equities have been caught up in this. However, the underlying development and expansion of the industry continues at pace, including its development of nuclear power. In January 2026, Meta signed 20-year agreements to take power from existing plants as well as funding the development of new reactors with TerraPower and Oklo. Even more recently, on 30/09 while headlines of an AI bubble were swirling, Amazon signed a deal to take nuclear power from Constellation Energy, in a deal which should extend the life of its Calvert Cliffs plant for 20 years, before backing a huge small modular reactor project in Indiana with development funding. On 06/10 Google signed a deal with Constellation Energy to upgrade existing nuclear power plants and boost its generating capacity. These companies are taking a long view, their investment in power supply mirroring their investment in their own AI capabilities, and it is clear they view an expansion of nuclear power capacity as essential for their plans for the new technology. In our view, the recent pullback in the uranium miners could represent a buying opportunity in a long-term story for those with the appetite and ability to take the risk.

We think there are other industry-specific issues which explain how it can see periods of weakness when the underlying story is so good. One is the weak sensitivity of the spot price to news – utility buyers tend to contract out long-term, and so when they have no immediate need to contract, the spot price can be docile, and this can influence equity investors. Additionally, the supply deficit is only expected to really widen in the 2030s, so there must be a temptation to hang on for a slightly better price before signing contracts. However, the long-term agreements being made by the hyper-scalers for power capacity show where they see the market heading, and there is broad consensus that developed and developing countries will need to massively expand power capacity in the coming decades. This strengthens our conviction that the risk is to the upside in the spot price, and that this is a short-term pull-back in a long-term bull story for the equities.

Gearing

GCL has access to cheap debt via a prime brokerage arrangement with BNP Paribas which the managers are able to use to enhance returns. Diana took over in a falling market, which means that gearing would rise absent an active decision to sell investments. While she has taken some debt off the table, she is wary of reducing gearing after the losses

have been made, and the gearing is being retained in order to benefit shareholders in the next upswing. As such the net gearing level has ticked up to 13.9% as of the end of September, having been 11.9% at the end of April.

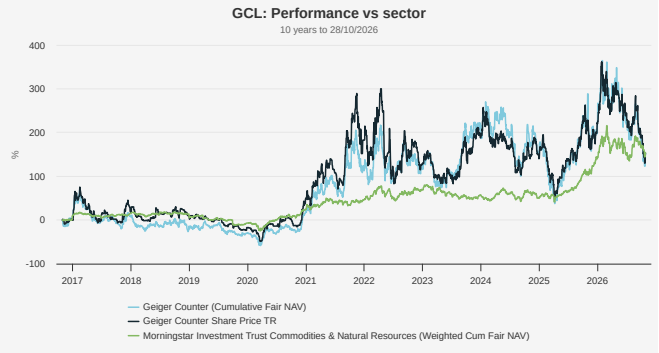
GCL is able to borrow at just 83bps over SONIA via a bank overdraft, a good rate which is particularly noteworthy given that some smaller investment trusts struggle to arrange debt facilities at all. The use of gearing has been an important feature of the trust's approach in recent years, and we don't expect this to change under the new manager. It increases the return potential, but has also contributed to downside risk and volatility, underlining that GCL is a proposition aiming for punchy capital growth and willing to take on risk to achieve this. The prospectus limits gearing to a maximum of 25%.

Performance

The Fukushima disaster in Japan, when a nuclear power plant built close to a tectonic fault was struck by a tsunami, led to nuclear power falling out of favour globally, existing plants being run down and plans for new ones cancelled. Uranium and uranium miners were out of favour for years, and delivered poor returns, but everything changed in 2021. Years of underinvestment in new supply created a bullish outlook for the commodity which benefited the miners. Additionally, attitudes to nuclear power began to change around the world, with its low carbon credentials being reassessed, and with China investing heavily in a nuclear fleet.

The chart below shows GCL's ten-year NAV and share price returns. These returns have been extremely high thanks to this recovery, but also extremely volatile. GCL's small and mid-cap focus and use of a significant level of gearing have contributed to this volatility, although the commodity itself has also been quite volatile. While there is no ETC with a track record long enough for us to include in the chart, prices took off at a similar time to GCL, and while there was a short-term peak in early 2022, the commodity price then remained closer to its high than GCL's shares. In this first wave, the price rose from c.$25 to peak at c.$64. Then, in 2023 another leg higher saw uranium hit c. $110, caused by the realisation that AI would require a vast expansion in power generation, with nuclear likely to be a major contributor. 2024 and 2025 saw a retracement to wave one's highs, before prices have headed steadily back to $92.

TEN-YEAR PERFORMANCE



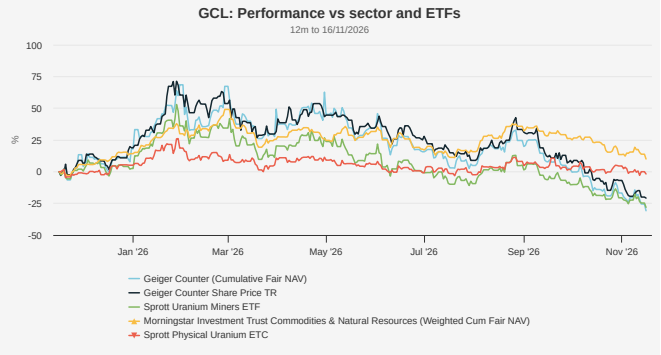
Source: Morningstar

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results

GCL would have been an excellent investment if bought around the start of either wave, but returns over the past year have been disappointing. The commodity price and the share prices of the miners have diverged, with the uranium price holding steady but the miners selling off. This is clear in the one-year chart below, which shows an ETC tracking the spot price of uranium is down 1.8%, while GCL's NAV is down 30.8%. We have included a uranium miners ETF, which has lost a similar amount despite having a significant amount in the physical commodity (14% at the time of writing) and not using gearing.

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ONE-YEAR PERFORMANCE



Source: Morningstar

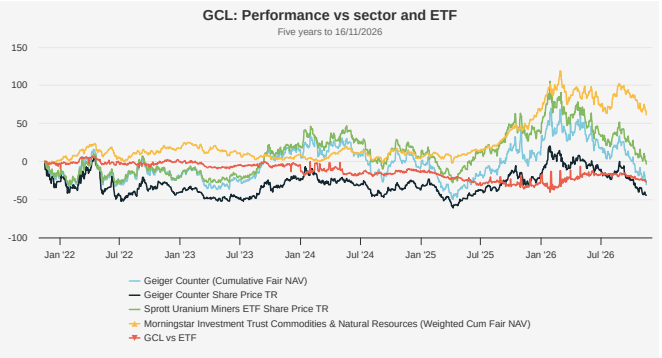
Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results

After such a strong run for the uranium miners, it may be that investors have taken profits. Additionally, in recent months the market has started to be more cautious about the AI trade, with companies across the memory and semiconductor space being weak, as well as the megacap tech stocks which are selling AI services. It may be that many investors have been investing in uranium in expectation that AI will lead to more nuclear power being developed, and as they have dialled back their exposure to AI they have sold uranium miners too. It's also true that the war in the Middle East and high energy costs have contributed to some macro worries which may be seeing investors sell down risk exposure across the board. Diana suggests we need to see announced commitments translating into licensed, financed, contracted reactors or permitted projects to see a return of confidence. Meanwhile, utilities have been slow to address the gap in supply emerging in the early 2030s, and this could be another dynamic to bring back momentum if addressed.

We think the structural support for the industry remains just as strong, with AI being viewed as a strategically important industry from a defence perspective. Many countries are planning to expand their nuclear fleet, with the US committing $17.5bn in government loans to help build up to 10 new reactors across five states and Canada planning to build ten new reactors by 2050 to give just two examples. India and China also have plans to massively expand their nuclear power capacity. Meanwhile, the market is in deficit, expected only to briefly balance around 2030 before the deficit widens sharply, which is bullish for the commodity price. The uranium miners have been volatile and the sector moves on newsflow and macro issues, but we think there is still a long term bull case for investing in the sector, and this pull-back may be an opportunity to add.

The chart below shows the five-year performance of GCL versus the sector and the uranium mining ETF, and starts after a sharp rally for the sector. We have also included a cumulative relative series showing how GCL has done versus the ETF, with an upwards sloping line denoting a period of outperformance and vice versa. For much of 2024 and 2025, GCL underperformed the ETF, with the latter's holdings in the two largest companies in the industry, Kazatomprom and Cameco, beneficial. We think these may have been easy first choices for investors wanting exposure to the sector, but the geopolitical risk in Kazatomprom and the high degree of hedging by Cameco, which means its revenues have limited exposure to the commodity price, are both good arguments for looking at the smaller names in the industry. In particular, Cameco's hedges mean it may be a more stable performer, but won't have as much beta to a strong commodity price. As Diana and Craig only took over management in May, and were officially appointed in October, most of this performance reflects the previous management team. We don't expect the strategy to change wholesale, but stock selection decisions are likely to be different, and the new managers have already slightly reduced the large position in NexGen, perhaps illustrating more of a focus on risk.

FIVE-YEAR PERFORMANCE



Source: Morningstar

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results

Dividend

The company does not aim to pay dividends, and has not done so in recent years.

Management

GCL's lead portfolio manager is Diana Racanelli, while Craig Bethune also serves as portfolio manager; both are employed by Manulife CQS Investment Managers. The pair took over day-to-day management of the portfolio in May 2026, but were only appointed for the long term as of 01/10/2026. The trust's previous managers resigned from Manulife CQS in March, after which the board conducted an extensive review of the options, which has resulted in the reappointment of Manulife CQS, with Diana and Craig taking over management responsibilities. There will be no change to the investment strategy or core process.

Diana has 39 years' experience, the majority of it in the mining sector. She began her career on the sell-side as a base metals mining associate and then analyst before moving to the buy side, and has managed portfolios in the resources space for multiple decades. She has managed precious metals funds and broader resources funds and currently manages metals & mining sleeves of broader diversified real assets funds and is an advisor with Craig Bethune on the Manulife Shariah Global Environmental Transition fund. Meanwhile, Craig's area of focus has been the energy sector, with some exposure to utilities as well, which complements Diana's specialisation, and he has 37 years of experience. The pair form the Global Natural Resources team which is part of the broader Capital Appreciation team and are supported on the investment management side by an analyst, Olivia Chamie, while there are also 13 research analysts based in Toronto and Boston covering companies in the global resources sector, as well as seven members of the multi asset solutions team with relevant expertise. The board cited Manulife's depth and breadth of experience and resources as key factors in their decision to reappoint the company.

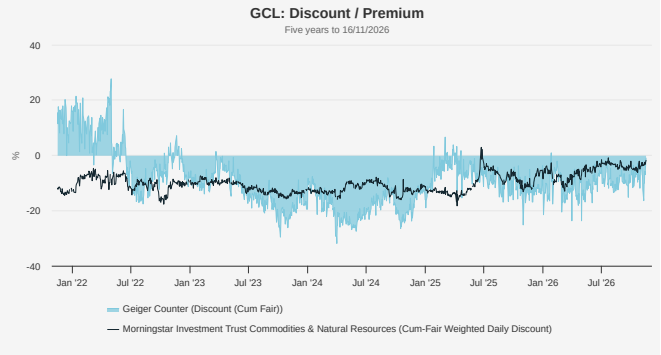
Discount

GCL's discount has been volatile, but has narrowed since the start of the year: from c. 16% in January, it has moved in to 7% at the time of writing. The discount widened after the announcement the previous portfolio managers had resigned, but this coincided with a sell-off in uranium miners, so it is hard to attribute causality. However, since May, the trend has very clearly been for the discount to narrow. With uranium miners having been weak, and therefore GCL's NAV having declined, we think this is a positive sign that a lot of investors see the potential in the long-term story and are happy to keep accumulating even during a weak market.

GCL has traded at a significant premium in the past when uranium has been in favour. As it is one of few London-listed ways for investors to access the uranium story, we see the potential for the discount to narrow to and above par if similar bullish sentiment returns, which could materially improve shareholder returns. However, we think the volatility evident in the below chart is likely to remain a feature of the rating for a few reasons. Uranium is a small, risk-on market and sensitive to global investor sentiment and flows, while GCL is a relatively small company with a market cap of c. £56m. Meanwhile, the company carries c. 14% of gearing which will magnify moves in the underlying holdings and is likely to be felt in a more volatile share price and discount.

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DISCOUNT



Source: Morningstar

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future results.

Shareholders have annual subscription rights which allow them to buy, on 30/04 each year, one share for every five they own, paying the price on 01/05 of the previous year. In years when the share price has risen, and these rights are therefore in the money, shareholders can buy more shares at a discount. This is an additional factor which may affect the discount as the deadline draws near. In years when take-up is high, the NAV per share will be diluted, and there is the potential for investors to sell their additional shares, although we note this is factored into the diluted NAV used to calculate the discount numbers we quote and the chart above.

During periods in which the shares have traded on a discount, the board has engaged in a program of stock buybacks aimed at providing liquidity, increasing the NAV per ordinary share and potentially narrowing the discount. About 8m shares were repurchased in the six months ending 31/03/2026, or c. 7% of those in issue, although none have been bought back since November, even though the discount has occasionally widened past the levels of that month. There is no set discount target for the buyback programme. We note that the board has to balance the NAV per share uplift and potential impact on the discount against the reduction in liquidity of an already small investment company.

Charges

As a relatively small trust, GCL has historically reported high ongoing charges figures (OCF), but a significant cut to the management fee could see this fall from the last reported number of 2.11%. In connection with the decision to reappoint Manulife CQS as manager following the resignation of the previous portfolio managers, it was agreed to cut the management fee from 1.375% of NAV (adding back any bank borrowings) to 1%. The OCF represents the costs of doing business for the company, and the effects are already incorporated in the NAV rather than being an additional charge paid by shareholders.

ESG

Manulife CQS views ESG factors as significant drivers influencing financing costs, risk assessment, valuations and performance. The assessment, integration and engagement of ESG factors are a crucial part of the investment manager's responsible investment commitment. By embedding responsible investment into its investment process, the investment manager seeks to enhance its ability to identify value, investment opportunity, risk and, critically, to generate the best possible returns and outcomes for its clients. This includes engagement with portfolio companies to understand governance issues and environmental risks, and Diana can draw on the work and support of a sustainability team within Manulife CQS.

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