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## **AB SRI Defensive Portfolio**

Data as at 31 July 2024

#### **Investment Objectives**

The AB SRI Defensive Model Portfolio will seek to deliver long-term capital growth by blending collective strategies and employing our proprietary rating and risk profiling systems. The equity allocation of the portfolio will be managed within our self imposed parameter of 0% - 35% and in line with a Alpha Beta Risk Profile of 3 - 5.

The AB SRI Defensive Portfolio only invests in funds that are sustainable and contribute positively to either the environment or society. The model selects investments that provide solutions to global issues such as climate change, biodiversity, water shortage, urbanisation, health and well-being, and social inclusion. The United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals are utilised to inform analysis and research on these themes, and the holdings in the model.

Snapshot			
Base Currency	Pound Sterling		
12 Month Yield	2.74%		
Ongoing Charge	0.63%		
Management Fee (VAT where applicable)	0.25%		
Portfolio Cost	0.88%		
Benchmark			

#### Comparator Benchmark

IA Mixed Investment 0-35% Shares

Risk					
Time Period: 01/08/2023 to 31/07/2024					
	Sharpe Ratio	Std Dev			
AB SRI Defensive	0.16	5.30			
IA Mixed Investment 0-35% Shares	0.14	5.57			

### **Top 10 Holdings**

Portfolio Date: 31/07/2024

EdenTree Responsible & Sust Shrt Dtd B	19.64%
RLBF II Royal London Ethical Bond M Inc	13.28%
Climate Assets Bal B GBP Inc	9.15%
EdenTree Responsible & Sust Stlg B	8.89%
Sarasin Responsible Corporate Bond P Acc	8.86%
Brown Advisory US Sust Gr GBP B Inc	8.42%
Vanguard ESG Em Mkts All Cp Eq Idx $\pounds$ Acc	5.67%
Liontrust Sust Fut Eurp Gr 2 Net Acc	5.49%
CT Responsible UK Income 2 Inc	3.74%
Pictet - Climate Government Bds I GBP	3.71%

## The aggregate total may not add up to the sum shown due to Morningstar roundings

#### **Investment Team**

Investment Manager Alpha Beta SRI Investment Team

#### Please contact :

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#### **Trailing Returns**

**Investment Growth** 

ing Data Point: Return						
1%	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inception (22/11/2013)
AB SRI Defensive	2.76	3.93	7.73	-3.55	2.10	41.45
IA Mixed Investment 0-35% S	hares 2.76	3.75	7.57	-1.32	5.65	34.24

The portfolio launched on 24/03/2009, however the data shown is from the first available past performance date, 22/11/2013.

#### **Asset Allocation Equity Regional Exposure** Portfolio Date: 31/07/2024 Portfolio Date: 31/07/2024 % Sterling Fixed Income 50.7 41.1 North America 9.2 Aggressive Allocation Europe developed 18.3 US Equity Large Cap Growth 8.4 United Kingdom 17.9 UK Equity Large Cap 5.9 Asia emerging 10.3 5.7 Global Emerging Markets Equity Asia developed 62 Europe Equity Large Cap 5.5 1.8 Japan Global Fixed Income 3.7 Africa/Middle East 1.8 Infrastructure Sector Equity 3.3 1.5 2.9 Latin America Sterling Money Market Australasia 0.8 Cash 2.0 0.3 Othe 2.8 Europe emerging

#### Manager's Commentary

In July, market volatility surged due to US election dynamics and a failed assassination attempt on Trump, affecting investor sentiment and trading patterns during a typically low volume summer period

Markets swiftly discounted potential Trump's policies, resulting in higher longer-dated bond yields, pressure on large technology stocks, and a boost for smaller and medium-sized firms. Trump's policies are expected to promote domestic manufacturing, increased trade restrictions, tighter borders, fiscal spending, political pressure to lower interest rates via the Federal Reserve, and be less supportive of big tech. Inflation continues to moderate, with markets anticipating a US interest rate cut in September. The dollar remains strong but has slightly weakened against other currencies, while the US treasury yield curve is beginning to normalise. Inflation moderated while markets anticipated a US interest rate cut in September

UK equities, represented by the FTSE 100, posted a 12% return over the past year, with minimal impact from political changes. The General Election resulted in a narrow Labour victory, with Chancellor Rachel Reeves pledging a balanced budget, leaving markets largely unmoved. However, concerns arose over inflation-busting public sector wage settlements, cancelled infrastructure projects, and capital tax hikes. Failure to grow economically may lead to more debt to fund policies. A UK interest rate cut is expected later this year, but high wage settlements may hinder progress

In June, the ECB cut rates by 0.25%. Europe's largest economies narrowly avoided recession, with slight Q2 growth, while German manufacturing and exports to a stagnating China struggled. The People's Bank of China made modest rate cuts to boost growth, allowing the currency to weaken and support exports. The Japanese Yen hit a 34-year low, aiding rts but prompting expected Bank of Japan intervention. Japan raised its benchmark interest rate to 0.25% and will reduce government bond purchases from January 2025.

Global liquidity, led by the US, supports risk asset prices through lower interest rates, Treasury Bill issuance, and reduced quantitative tightening. Basel "end-game" implementation will bolster banking balance sheets, supporting government bond issuance. Optimism remains, despite geopolitical uncertainties. Technology funds declined, while healthcare and listed infrastructure funds delivered positive returns in July. Portfolios remained stable in July despite volatility, benefiting from a rotation to smaller companies and shorter fixed income 74% 71% duration, positioning well for ongoing rate cuts in developed markets

At portfolio level, the SRI Defensive model benefited from its UK equity exposure. Of the portfolio's top holdings, the best performing fund was the CT Responsible UK Income fund. One of the fund's largest holdings is Unilever. Unilever are committed to help tackle the climate crisis and are eliminating emissions from their operations by 2030. They are also working with their brands, suppliers, retailers, and consumers to reach net zero across their value chain by 2039. Unilever have reduced their manufacturing carbon footprint in the UK and Ireland by two thirds since 2018, four of their sites are carbon neutral, and they use 100% renewable grid electricity

Disclaimer

86.84%

Fundment scottish WIDOWS Parmenion

Portfolio

Weighting %

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Source: Morningstar Direct