

A "Defensive" risk portfolio seeks to provide an enhanced level of capital protection whilst still allowing investors the ability to achieve modest long-term growth (10 years). The portfolio is suitable for risk-averse investors whose financial temperament cannot tolerate variation in performance. Whilst the emphasis is on lower volatility and capital preservation, a small amount of risk will be taken to seek a higher return.



FE Analytics

Fund Manager's Report

July marked the start of Q2 corporate earnings season, a pivotal period for market sentiment as we received fresh insights from the real economy for the first time since "Liberation Day." Overall, markets have taken these earnings reports in their stride, with global equities delivering positive returns. A notable feature of the month was a strengthening US dollar, with a leading ETF tracking the global basket of world stocks returning +1.02% in USD, but +4.77% in GBP terms. US growth was once again the driver, although breadth continues to improve.

Technology giants, including Nvidia and Microsoft, led the charge. Microsoft, fuelled by the AI rebound, reported that its heavy investments were starting to generate returns, while also announcing further capital expenditure. Microsoft shares rose +11% over the month. Similarly, Nvidia returned +16.76% and TSMC +10.64%, both benefiting from robust technology spending and easing concerns over trade policies. The introduction of the Hermes Sustainable Global Equity fund was to capture these big market weight returns, and the fund delivered +5.12% for the month.

Energy and energy efficiency focused funds continued to be supported once again, returning mid-to-high single digit returns for the month. Some of this was driven by the renewed AI optimism as well as strong results from key industrial players exposed to this theme, such as ABB or Prysmian. Interestingly, peer Schneider Electric, which has greater revenue exposure to data centres, disappointed, as concerns over cash flow and debt levels overshadowed results. The passing of Trump's tax bill was a turning point for the renewable energy. Although it eliminated several subsidies, impacting areas like US residential solar, it also ended a prolonged period of uncertainty. In some cases, pureplay clean energy funds returned double digits for the month despite the political outcome. Portfolios holding in RobecoSAM Smart Energy was once again a standout performer, returning +8.13% for the month.

We have touched on the healthcare sector a number of times recently, and returns were generally more subdued during the quarter compared to global equities. However, portfolios direct exposure through Polar Capital Healthcare Opportunities fund was a standout performer versus peers, and competitive compared to global equity returns, returning +5.23% for the month. Novo Nordisk's fall from grace continued, although this had limited impact as it is now rarely seen in funds we hold or monitor for our ethical MPS. They made headlines after cutting profit forecasts due to slowing demand for weight loss drugs in the US, resulting in a -27.98% decline.

Portfolios alternative exposure was subdued on the month, with RM Alternative Income Fund returning -0.14%. UK wind exposure was in the spotlight in the month, with Greencoat UK Wind returning -0.33%, and The Renewable Infrastructure Group declining -3.49%. Weakness stemmed from Net Asset Value reductions due to lower-than-expected wind power generation and softer power prices in H1. For UK Wind, generation was 14% below budget, but operational resilience remained intact. Importantly, policy clarity from the new government, including a resolution to the zonal pricing issue, was viewed positively.

In fixed income, the UK yield curve remained steady with a slight steepening, as short-term yields declined and longer-term yields rose modestly. In the US, yields were more volatile around the Federal Reserve's policy discussions, with Trump applying pressure for further rate cuts. The Bank of England is expected to cut interest rates in early August, and we have seen a lot of support at the front end of the curve as a result, with a consensus shift to a terminal rate of around 3.5%.

Top 5 Equity Funds

CT Sustainable Global Equity income	3.50%
JH Global Sustainability Eq Fund	3.00%
Schroders Global Sustainable Value	3.00%
JH UK Responsible Income	3.00%
Liontrust Sustainable Future UK Growth	3.00%

Top 5 Bond Funds

AXA Short Duration Green Bond	12.00%
Aegon Global Sustainable Sov Bond Fund	12.00%
T Rowe Price Global Impact Credit	10.00%
Lyxor UK Government Bond 0-5 ETF	10.00%
Threadneedle Social Bond Fund	8.00%

Fees

DFM fee: 0.20% to 0.40% (based on AUM)

Portfolio OCF	0.37%
Transactional Cost	0.09%
Historic Yield	2.74%
5-Year Volatility	6.26%

Excluded Activity

X Adult Entertainment X Alcohol Production
X Armaments X Fossil Fuel Exploration & Production
X Major Environmental Concerns X Gambling X Tobacco Production

Our aim is to achieve zero exposure to the above sectors. Whilst our portfolios are not focused on transition companies, where companies have credible and substantial plans to transition away from excluded activities, and where these plans are already evidently well underway, they may be included in portfolios. Eg Orsted

Targeted Activity

- ✓ **Climate Change**
(Alternative Energy, Energy Efficiency, Green Building)
- ✓ **Natural Capital**
(Sustainable Water, Pollution Prevention, Sustainable Agriculture)
- ✓ **Basic Needs**
(Nutrition, Major Diseases Treatment, Sanitation, Affordable Housing)
- ✓ **Empowerment**
(SME Finance, Education, Connectivity)

Investment Committee



Wayne Bishop
Chief Executive Officer



Harry Thompson
Portfolio Manager



Will Arnold
Assistant Portfolio Manager

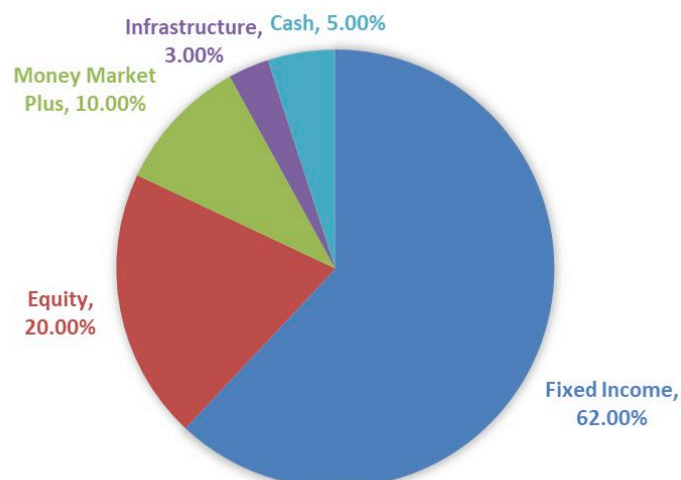


Craig Hart
Platform & MPS Proposition

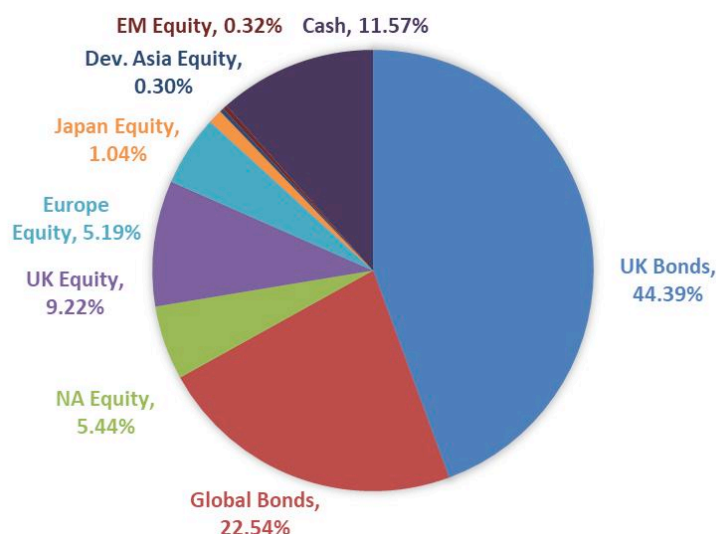
Stock Pick - Orsted Blue Bond

The health of the world's oceans is under significant threat. The challenges include pollution, including from plastic and sewage; ocean acidification; damage to marine ecosystems and biodiversity; and overfishing. Improving ocean health will be critical to tackling the global biodiversity and climate crises as oceans are a vital carbon sink. Orsted's blue bond promotes the sustainable use of ocean resources across its offshore wind activities and sustainable shipping fuels business, while preserving biodiversity and the health of the ocean ecosystem. Capital raised will be used to scale-up existing efforts on marine biodiversity to protect and support improvements in shellfish, coral reefs, seabird habitat, the blue economy and to support the transition to sustainable shipping by developing green ocean fuels and decarbonizing vessels.

Asset Allocation



Geographical Allocation



Cumulative Performance (Net of DFM fee & OCFs)

3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Inception
2.44%	2.71%	3.57%	0.66%	2.00%	16.71%

Discrete Performance (Net of DFM fee and OCFs)

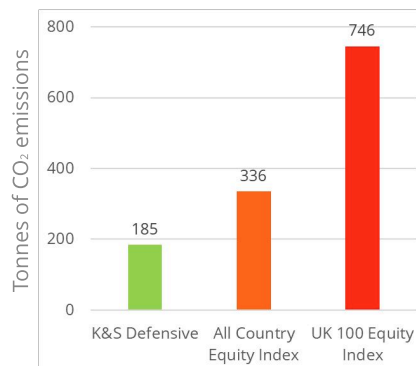
Aug 24 to Jul 25	Aug 23 to Jul 24	Aug 22 to Jul 23	Aug 21 to Jul 22	Aug 20 to Jul 21
3.57%	7.04%	-9.20%	-6.72%	8.62%

Cumulative Performance Since Inception (based on £10k Invested)

The chart below provides an indicative guide to the performance returns for a £10,000 investment since the inception of the model portfolio. Please remember this factsheet is just a snapshot in time in relation to performance data, and is not intended or to be relied upon by retail investors. Note that the value of investments and the income arising from them, may fall as well as rise and is not guaranteed.



Fund Carbon Data



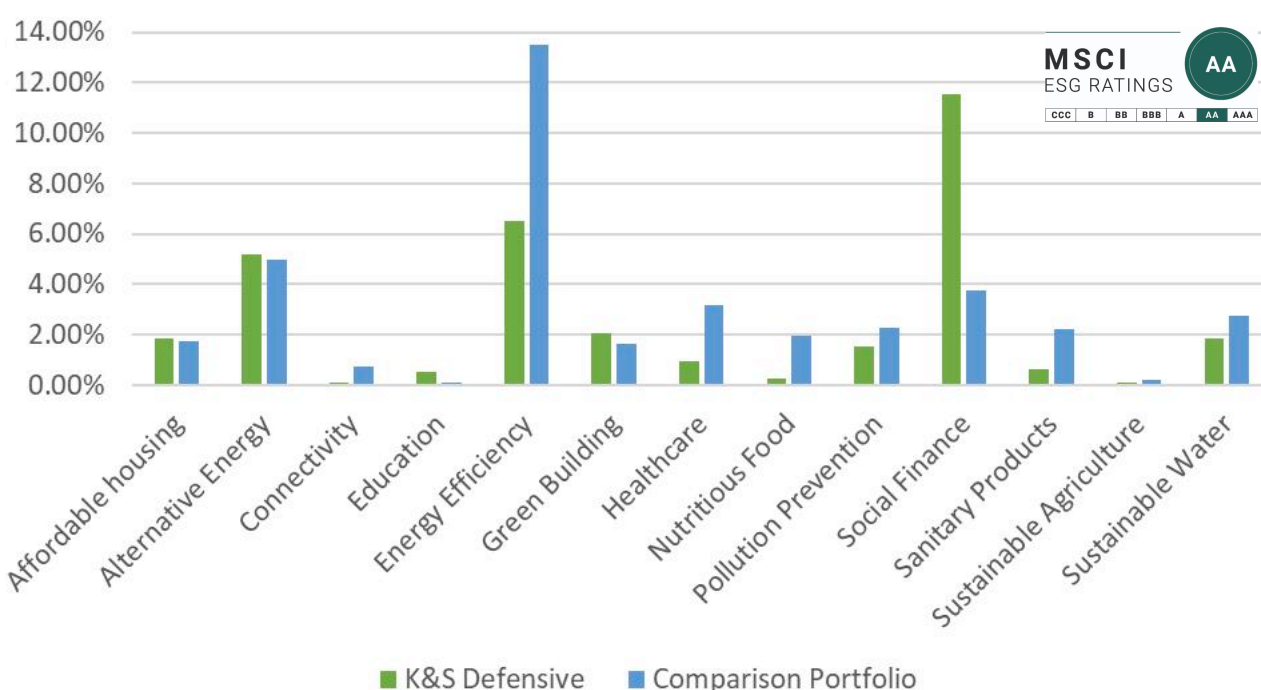
Methodology: Represents a normalized measure of a fund's contribution to climate change that apportions companies' carbon emissions. This figure measures the total annual Scope 1, 2 & 3 carbon emissions in tonnes (reported or estimated) associated with \$1 million invested in the equity element of the portfolio. It is calculated as the sum of companies' Scope 1+2+3 carbon emissions weighted by the most recently available enterprise value including cash (EVIC) and by the weight of companies in the fund. Correct as at May 2025 (Source: MSCI)

Fund SDR Classification

Information pending: We will report to clients on the underlying fund exposure according to the SDR fund sustainability fund labels, once fully implemented. The labelling will help underlying investors identify the make up our model portfolios according to the four fund labels.

Positive Investment Themes (Correct as at May 2025)

Whilst we have access to all the underlying holdings held within each collective, it would be unrealistic to detail each individual company and their own specific positive outcomes. Instead, the data below looks at the portfolios holistically, and maps their exposure to a number of positive investment themes, such as alternative energy, sustainable water, or green buildings, to name but a few. We have taken third party data from MSCI and used their thirteen 'Sustainable Impact Metrics', which cover environmental and social impact, and compared it to a blend of global equity and bonds depending on risk.



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MSCI's coverage of the funds underlying companies within your portfolio is not yet 100% (Funds MPS overall coverage ranging from 70-88%). It is therefore possible that there could be some upside in the exposure to the positive investment themes. We do expect the coverage to expand over time, as the quality and depth of reporting widens through the universe of investable stocks. Four funds held in portfolios, the Gravis Clean Energy Income fund, the Foresight UK Infrastructure fund, the Gravis UK Infrastructure Income Fund and the RM Alternative Income Fund, have an underlying company coverage between 25-46%. Therefore, for these four funds only, we have inferred the alternative energy data from the fund house's own material, as this has a clear revenue link to this theme.

Contact Details

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