

# AB Sustainable Balanced Growth

Data as at 31 March 2024

## **Investment Objectives**

The portfolio aims to provide capital growth over the medium to long term, keeping within the prescribed volatility limits whilst investing, where appropriate, in low cost ETFs or Index funds, physically invested and with a low tracking error.

AB Sustainable Balanced Growth invests a minimum core of 80% in funds that are sustainable and contribute positively to either the environment or society, and that provide solutions to global issues. The sustainable models are aligned to the core model's risk first asset allocation, utilising both thoroughly researched active and passive instruments, whilst remaining a cost-effective solution to responsible investing.

Investment	Growth



- AB Sustainable Balanced Growth - IA Mixed Investment 40-85% Shares

Snapshot					
Base Currency	Pound Sterling				
12 Month Yield	2.31%				
Ongoing Charge	0.54%				
Management Fee (VAT exempt)	0.25%				
Portfolio Cost	0.79%				

#### **Benchmark** Comparator Benchmark IA Mixed Investment 40-85%

#### Risk Time Period: 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024 Std Dev Sharpe Ratio AB Sustainable Balanced Growth 8 66 0.65 IA Mixed Investment 40-85% Shares 7.29 0.93

## **Top 10 Holdings** Portfolio Date: 31/03/2024

	Portfolio Weighting %
iShares Japan Equity ESG Idx (UK) D Acc	12.35%
CT Responsible UK Equity 2 Acc	9.09%
Vanguard ESG Em Mkts All Cp Eq Idx £ Acc	8.44%
FP Foresight Global RI Infras A GBP Acc	6.56%
Baillie Gifford High Yield Bond B Acc	6.41%
Vanguard SRI European Stk £ Acc	6.15%
Brown Advisory US Sust Gr GBP B Inc	5.73%
BNY Mellon Sust Glb Dyn Bd Instl W Acc	5.60%
Janus Henderson Global Sust Eq I Acc	4.52%
Liontrust Sust Fut Glbl Gr 2 Net Acc	4.48%

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:

Andrew Thompson or Geoff Brooks on 020 8152 5120 Northgate House, Upper Borough Walls, Bath BA1 1RG

### **Trailing Returns**

	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	Since Inception (01/03/2021)
AB Sustainable Balanced Growth	3.74	10.14	8.97	4.67	42.76	5.16
IA Mixed Investment 40-85% Shares	4.14	10.15	10.11	10.67	29.15	12.50

The portfolio launched on 1 March 2021. Performance data prior to this date is for illustration purposes only and is backed tested performance using the asset allocation of the portfolio at launch

#### **Asset Allocation Equity Regional Exposure** Portfolio Date: 31/03/2024 Portfolio Date: 31/03/2024 Sterling Fixed Income 13.8 12.4 Japan Equity Global Fixed Income 12.0 Global Equity Large Cap 11.1 9.1 Global Emerging Markets Equity 8.4 Infrastructure Sector Equity 66 6.1 Europe Equity Large Cap 5.7 US Equity Large Cap Growth Sterling Money Market 3.3 Othe 11.5

#### 29.9 North America Japan 20.7 United Kingdom 15.7 Europe developed 13.8 Asia emerging 8.0 5.7 Asia developed Australasia 2.9 Africa/Middle East Latin America 1.3 0.3 Europe emerging

## Manager's Commentary

In the first quarter of 2024, we witnessed positive outcomes in our portfolio's performance.

Some important milestones included the Bank of Japan raised interest rates for the first time in 37 years, while the Swiss National Bank initiated an interest rate cutting cycle with a 0.25% decrease. Inflation in the United States surprised on the downside, pleasing domestic markets, though core inflation remained steady, particularly due to persistent housing costs.

The Federal Reserve indicated a likelihood of three rate cuts in 2024 but uncertainty regarding further easing in 2025. The promise of lower interest rates, coupled with an impending Presidential election, boosted optimism in US markets. Solid economic growth, a robust labour market, and optimistic consumer confidence further fuelled this positivity. Moreover, ample liquidity supported risk assets, acting as a vital lubricant for portfolio growth

Chinese equities and emerging markets remained stable. Copper prices and commodities in general were supported by increased Chinese demand, indicating manufacturing demand. However, deflation in China is a real phenomenon and is finding its way into Western markets, supported by a weaker Yuan.

In Europe, the European Central Bank faced pressure to cut interest rates to alleviate the burden on struggling Eurozone economies. ECB has indicated it may front run the Fed to cut interest rates. In the UK we were all pleased to see inflation falling back and offering an overdue positive surprise. Meanwhile, geopolitical tensions persisted, with conflicts in the Middle East and the Russo-Ukraine crisis causing instability.

Despite potential geopolitical risks, the outlook remained optimistic. A regenerative interest rate cutting cycle across developed markets, robust economic performance in the US, and resilient corporate earnings suggested further upside potential. Alpha Beta Partners maintained a cautious risk-on positioning in portfolios, aiming to capture opportunities while remaining cognizant of the potential downside risks.

At a portfolio level, the Sustainable Balanced Growth model benefited from its European equity exposure, with its best performing fund being the Vanguard SRI European Stock fund. One of the fund's biggest holdings is Novo Nordisk, who are discovering and developing innovative biological medicines and making them accessible to patients throughout the world. They concentrate on the serious chronic diseases that affect hundreds of millions of people and that are among the most urgent global health challenges.

### Disclaimer

69.32%

This communication is from Alpha Beta Partners a trading name of AB Investment Solutions Limited. Alpha Beta Partners Limited is registered in England no. 10963905. AB Investment Solutions Limited is registered in England no. 09138865. AB Investment Solutions is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. This material is directed only at persons in the UK and is not an offer or invitation to buy or sell securities. Opinions expressed, whether in general, on the performance of individual securities or in a wider context, represent the views of Alpha Beta Partners at the time of preparation. They are subject to change and should not be interpreted as investment advice. You should remember that the value of investments and the income derived therefrom may fall as well as rise and you may not get back your original investment. Past performance is not a guide to future returns. Further information is available on request, or on our website www.alphabetapartners.co.uk.











