

Investment Objectives

Our objective is to outperform RPI UK + 4% over the medium to long term, keeping within the prescribed volatility limits whilst investing in low cost ETFs or Index funds for the core and active funds for the satellite positions.

To achieve the investment objective we deploy quantitative and qualitative techniques and extensive research that shape our macro economic and thematic views.

Investment Growth

Time Period: 01/01/2018 to 30/04/2022



Snapshot

Base Currency	Pound Sterling
12 Mo Yield	1.42%
Ongoing Charge	0.49%
Management Fee (VAT where applicable)	0.25%
Portfolio Cost	0.74%

Calendar Year Returns

	3Month	6Month	YTD	2021	2020	2019	Since Inception [01-01-2018]
AB Risk Rated Balanced Growth	0.59	-2.45	-4.48	12.93	10.62	20.33	40.30
IA Mixed Investment 40-85% Shares	-1.13	-4.12	-5.81	11.10	5.50	15.94	20.22

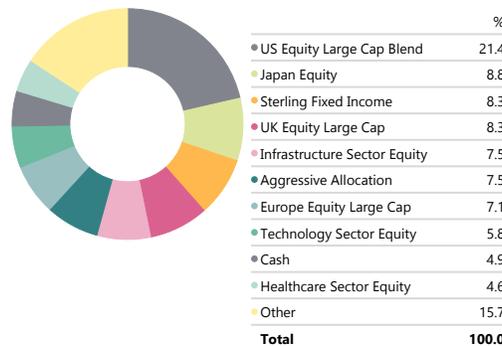
Launch date 28/01/2021. Past performance shown prior to this date is for illustration purposes only and shows performance of AB Core Plus Balanced Growth.

Benchmark

Benchmark	UK RPI+4%
Comparator Benchmark	IA Mixed Investment 40-85%

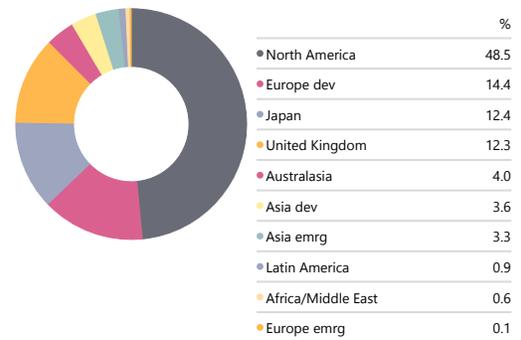
Asset Allocation

Portfolio Date: 30/04/2022



Equity Regional Exposure

Portfolio Date: 30/04/2022



Risk

	Sharpe Ratio	Std Dev
AB Risk Rated Balanced Growth	-0.58	8.91
IA Mixed Investment 40-85% Shares	-0.84	7.55

Top 10 Holdings

Portfolio Date: 30/04/2022

Portfolio Weighting %	
14.88%	iShares North American Eq Idx (UK) D Acc
8.77%	Vanguard Jpn Stk Idx £ Acc
7.51%	First Sentier Glb Lstd Infra B GBP Acc
7.48%	Optimal Multi Asset Balanced A GBP
6.51%	Vanguard U.S. Eq Idx £ Acc
6.40%	Vanguard FTSE UK All Shr Idx Unit Tr£Acc
5.23%	Vanguard FTSE Dev €pe ex-UK Eq Idx £ Acc
4.95%	CASH
4.11%	Schroder Global Healthcare Z Acc
4.08%	Janus Henderson Glb Tech Leaders I Acc
69.93%	

Manager's Commentary

The geopolitical risk emanating from Russia-Ukraine conflict continued to affect the market. The wider impact of this conflict can be felt across energy and agricultural commodity prices, ultimately finding its way to the inflation numbers.

With CPI inflation in the United States standing at 8.5%, created by the Covid-19 supply shock and exacerbated by mountains of central bank liquidity, the vampire-like effect of spiraling price rises across the board is a serious headwind to progress. A possible summer of discontent at home takes us back to images of the 1970s. Central banks face a tough challenge of slaying the inflation vampire whilst maneuvering delicately to avoid a recession. Raising rates multiple times and removing excess liquidity by a new tool called quantitative tightening will slow economic growth. However, economies are simultaneously slowing down quite naturally following the turbo charged recovery from the worst effects of the pandemic. So, the distinct possibility of central bank policy error must be calculated and factored into our forthcoming asset allocation decisions.

The Federal Reserve announced has raised FFR again in May's FOMC as expected. Interestingly, the accompanying Q&A session revealed the limitations of monetary policy in curbing the supply-side inflation. It is however, destroying the demand side of the equation. This leads us back to thinking if the fed is behind the curve again. Care should be taken not to raise rates aggressively as we progress through the year. There is scope for central bank policy error in this regard and we remain alert to early signals.

US 10-year treasury yields hit 3%, the highest level since 2018. The world's supply of negative yielding bonds has evaporated before our eyes as the bond bubble steadily deflates. Higher bond yields prove a disruptor for equity valuations, particularly for those levered firms and those whose stock prices have risen perhaps too high. Then there is a case of curve inversion – we have seen both the Treasury 10/2 and OIS 30/5 curve inverted – signaling tighter borrowing conditions for economic agents in the near term.

The technology and clean energy sectors were hardest hit during the ongoing correction. The global infrastructure sector posted strong performance and healthcare sector posted a slight deterioration. As expected, the ongoing correction is sentiment driven and has affected almost all sectors.

We believe now is time for some sensible housekeeping. There is still scope for equity bounce, of that we have little doubt, but the risk reward balance has shifted. We are now favoring changes to duration, cash and at the next upside failure we intend to take some of the equity exposure off. All portfolios remained inside their allocated risk corridors during the month.

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