



# RBC Brewin Dolphin Sustainable Risk Category 3 Portfolio

31 March 2024

## MSCI ESG Ratings



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## Investment objective and overview

The portfolio aims to maximise returns from income and capital growth from a portfolio of funds which exclude exposure to companies with significant revenue from controversial sectors. Subject to the primary objective, the portfolio seeks exposure to companies that have a positive societal or environmental impact.

All funds in the portfolio go through a robust Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) selection process which consists of three parts:

**Exclusions:** funds that seek to exclude companies that derive significant revenue from tobacco, controversial weapons, thermal coal, gambling, and adult entertainment\*.

**ESG Leaders:** funds that are industry leaders in integrating ESG factors into investment decisions and stewardship activities, and

**Impactful companies:** funds that invest in companies which contribute positively and measurably to social and/or environmental challenges

We measure our approach by assessing alignment with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

\* Involvement is defined as greater than 10% of sales in the listed areas.

## Economic Commentary

Following on the heels of the sharp move higher in late 2023, the first quarter of 2024 has seen further market strength, as markets have risen steadily with barely a backward glance. This rally has been most welcome, particularly after the relentless weakness in the late summer/early autumn had done so much damage to general investor sentiment and risk appetite.

The triggers for this rally are many, both tangible and intangible. On a fundamental basis, we have seen relatively positive reported earnings and guidance from the corporate world in aggregate. Alongside this, economic data hasn't held any nasty surprises. In terms of general investor sentiment, as more time has passed without the much-feared recessionary impact of the interest rate shock, the possibility that there may actually be a 'soft-landing' (inflation normalising without a global recession) has gained wider acceptance.

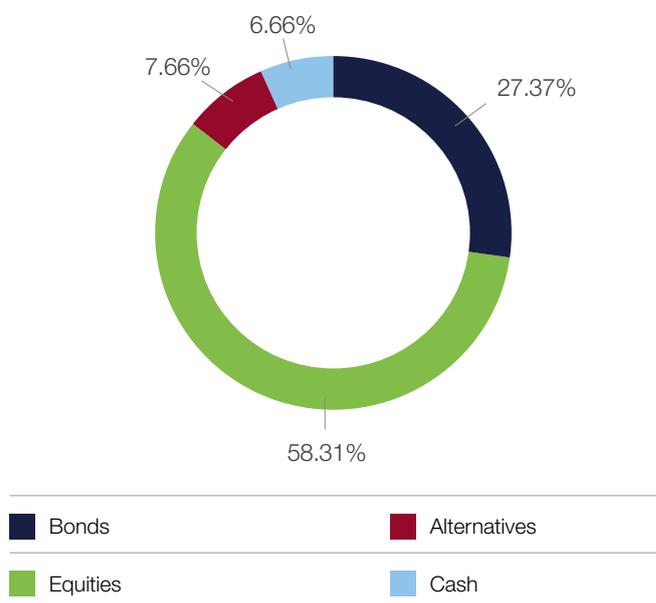
The global market does not look particularly cheap, but we do note that expected long-term returns from the US stock market are looking more attractive than they were a couple of years ago. When we also factor in the much-improved yields available in the bond market, there is good cause for optimism for investors willing to take a long-term view.

2023 was a year where markets swung violently in both directions and we have no desire to see those conditions return, but we can quite reasonably expect a moderation in the rally and some volatility in the rest of 2024 as we continue to leave the bear market in the rear-view mirror.

### Portfolio Holdings as at 31 March 2024

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Brown Advisory US Sustainable Growth            | 14.16% |
| Robeco Global Credits SDG Fund                  | 12.34% |
| iShares Global Government Bond UCITS ETF        | 9.98%  |
| Liontrust Sustainable Future Growth             | 9.64%  |
| Schroder Global Sustainable Values              | 6.49%  |
| iShares Global Inflation Linked UCITS ETF       | 5.05%  |
| Columbia Threadneedle Responsible Global Equity | 4.87%  |
| JPM EUR Money Market Funds                      | 4.49%  |
| Pictet Global Environmental Opportunities       | 4.43%  |
| Stewart Asia Pacific Leaders                    | 4.43%  |
| TB Evenlode Global Income                       | 4.29%  |
| Royal London Global Sustainable Leaders         | 3.55%  |
| Schroder Global Cities                          | 3.05%  |
| Schroder ISF Global Energy Transition           | 2.85%  |
| BNY Mellon Sustainable Global Dynamic Bond      | 2.74%  |
| Cash  | 2.17%  |
| Ninety One Global Environment                   | 2.09%  |
| Muzinich Global Tactical Credit                 | 1.87%  |
| Baillie Gifford Positive Change                 | 1.51%  |

### Asset Allocation



### Carbon Intensity

Carbon Intensity measures a portfolio’s exposure to carbon intensive businesses and is a recommended metric for assessing Carbon Risk by the Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). It is calculated as a weighted average of each portfolio companies total Scope 1(1) and Scope 2(2) Carbon Emissions divided by their annual Sales, with a lower score representing less (better) Carbon Intensity.

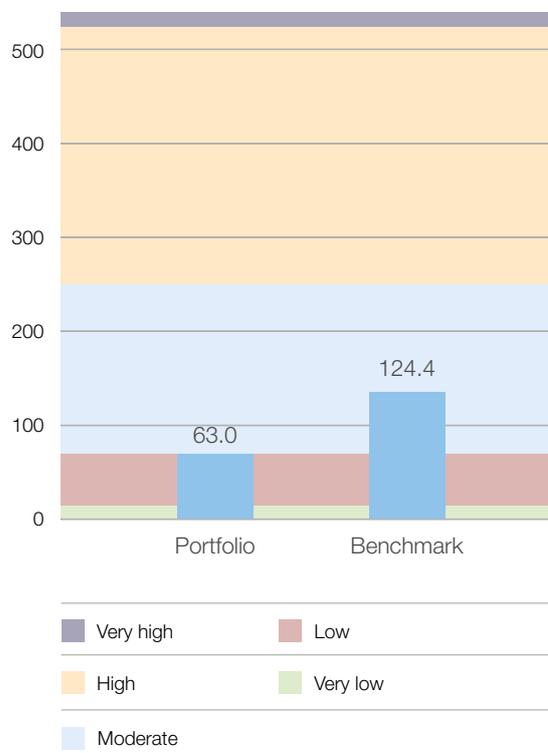
Comparisons of Carbon Intensity figures should be made with caution, as generally companies in the sectors with the highest Carbon Emissions (such as Utilities) also have the highest potential for reducing their Carbon Emissions. We believe it is important to encourage these reductions in carbon emissions where they have the potential for highest impact.

#### References:

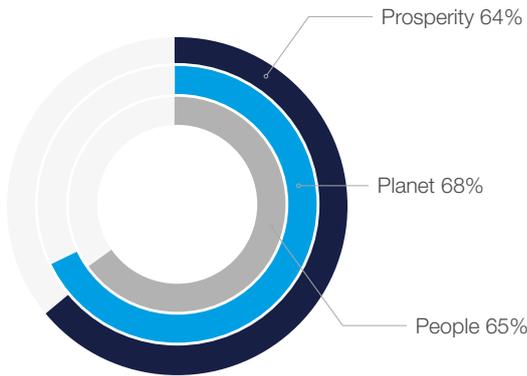
(1) Scope 1: All direct GHG emissions from sources owned or controlled by the company (e.g. emissions from combustion in owned boilers, furnaces).

(2) Scope 2: Indirect GHG emissions that occur from the generation of purchased electricity, steam or heat consumed by the company.

Benchmark for comparison: 55% MSCI ACWI, 45% Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate



**SDG Alignment**



The UN SDG Alignment provides a framework for considering a broad set of seventeen sustainability issues. Although not intended for investment purposes, it provides a useful context for measuring a portfolio's alignment with these goals.

We select 12 of these SDGs and place them into three sustainability themes: People, Planet, and Prosperity, with each sustainability theme consisting of four SDG goals. We use fund alignment data from MSCI to measure the alignment of the portfolio to each of our three sustainability themes. To calculate this, we take a weighted average of each fund's alignment to each of the three sustainability themes.

For instance, if Fund A is a 10% holding in the portfolio, and within the People theme is aligned with both "Zero Hunger" and "Gender Equality" but not the other two SDGs, then the fund will contribute 5% to the overall score of the People theme: 2.5% through Gender Equality and 2.5% through "Zero Hunger".

**Prosperity**



**Planet**



**People**



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| Warning: past performance is not a reliable guide to future performance.        |
| Warning: the value of your investment may go down as well as up.                |
| Warning: you may lose some or all of the money you invest.                      |
| Warning: your investment may be affected by changes in currency exchange rates. |
| Warning: any income you get from this investment may go down as well as up.     |

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