

## VT Blackfinch Defensive Portfolio Fund Factsheet August 2022



Targeting CPI

**+1%**

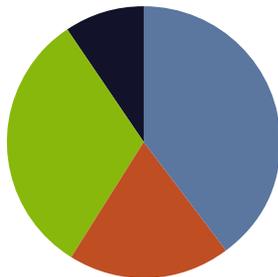
per annum, over a rolling  
5 year basis net of fees.

### Investment Objective

The Defensive portfolio is designed to achieve a total return in excess of the Consumer Price Index plus 1% per annum, over a rolling 5 year basis net of fees. The portfolio is globally diversified and contains multi asset investments including fixed income, equities, property, alternatives and cash. Exposure to fixed income, equities, property, alternatives is via collective investment schemes. There is no guarantee that the objective will be met or that a positive return will be delivered over any time period. Capital at risk.

### Asset Allocation (as at 31/08/2022)

Fixed Income	<b>42.87%</b>
Equities	<b>19.71%</b>
Property	<b>0.00%</b>
Alternatives	<b>29.59%</b>
Cash	<b>7.83%</b>



### Tactical Deviation

Fixed Income	<b>2.97%</b>	Overweight
Equities	<b>0.11%</b>	Overweight
Property	<b>-6.00%</b>	Underweight
Alternatives	<b>4.79%</b>	Overweight
Cash	<b>-1.87%</b>	Underweight

### Market Commentary

There was an air of optimism in equity markets in August, after US inflation numbers for July cooled from a 40-year year-on-year high of 9.1% in June to 8.5% in July. This was the first-time the inflation data dipped below market expectations in several months, and it gave investors reasons for optimism that the US Federal Reserve (Fed) would be less aggressive with interest rate hikes at its next meeting. Positive economic data continued in the US in the form of strong jobs data, an upwards revision to growth in household consumption, and confirmation that the US economy shrank by less than estimated in the second quarter.

While this was viewed as good news, the Fed made it abundantly clear that future rate hikes would be dictated by economic data. Therefore, stronger data points increase the likelihood of more aggressive action from the central bank. Fed Chair Jerome Powell confirmed as much at the Jackson Hole symposium at the end of August, reiterating that while the Fed's commitment to controlling inflation would bring some pain to households and businesses, a failure to restore price stability would cause even greater pain.

In the UK, inflation as measured by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 10.1% in the 12 months to July 2022, up from 9.4% in June. This was the first double-digit reading since February 1982. At its August meeting, the Bank of England (BoE) raised interest rates by the expected 0.50% to 1.75%, the largest single increase since 1995 and the sixth consecutive rate hike. Of greater concern were the BoE's economic projections that the UK faces its longest recession since the global financial crisis and that inflation is set to peak at nearly 13.5% in October. These sobering predictions indicate the BoE has little option but to engineer a more aggressive economic downturn in order to bring inflation under control.

In contrast to the west, China continues to experience low inflation, the consequence of sporadic outbreaks of COVID-19 and its strict 'Zero COVID' control policies that have curtailed both business and consumer spending. However, in August, China's National Bureau of Statistics reported that its annual inflation rate hit a two-year high in July of 2.7%, up from June's figure of 2.5%, but still below market expectations of 2.8%.

### Performance

3 months	<b>-1.88%</b>
6 months	<b>-4.23%</b>
12 months	<b>-8.92%</b>
Since Inception*	<b>1.45%</b>

*Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.*

*\*Date of inception: 1st May 2020.*

*All Blackfinch unitised fund performance figures are quoted net of AMC and fund OCFs. The above performance is that of the F Accumulation Share Class.*

## Portfolio Holdings (as at 31/08/2022)

BNY Mellon - Global Dynamic Bond	9.03%
Ninety One - Diversified Income	8.81%
Vanguard - FTSE 100 Index Unit Trust	7.17%
Rathbone - Ethical Bond	6.95%
Vanguard - Global Bond Index Hedged	6.69%
iShares - US Equity Index (UK)	6.24%
Pimco GIS - Income	5.80%
Vanguard - UK Government Bond Index	5.31%
Vanguard - US Government Bond Index	5.03%
Liontrust - Monthly Income Bond	4.93%
JPM - Global Macro Opportunities	4.56%
Brandywine - Global Income Optimiser	4.08%
Federated Hermes - Unconstrained Credit	4.07%
FP Foresight - Global Real Infrastructure	4.05%
VT RM - Alternative Income	3.14%
HSBC - European Index	2.61%
Jupiter - Japan Income	2.31%
Comgest - Growth Japan	1.38%
Cash	7.83%

### All data as at 31st August 2022, unless specified otherwise.

Blackfinch Asset Management is an appointed representative of Blackfinch Investments Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Registered address: 1350-1360 Montpellier Court, Gloucester Business Park, Gloucester, GL3 4AH. Registered Company in England & Wales under No. 11639647. The Blackfinch Asset Management Portfolios are actively managed by Blackfinch Investments Limited. Blackfinch Asset Management Limited act as the promoter and distributor of the model portfolios. Capital at risk. This factsheet is based on a model portfolio. No guarantee can be made as to the composition of any individual portfolio. All figures are correct at the time of compilation. Any decision to invest in this service should not be based solely on this factsheet but rather made in conjunction with the information contained in the brochure, and the terms and conditions. Prospective investors must rely on their own examination of the legal, taxation, financial and other consequences of investing and the risk involved. Prospective investors should not treat the contents of this factsheet as advice relating to legal, taxation or other matters. If in any doubt about the proposal discussed in this factsheet, its suitability, or what action should be taken, the investor should consult their own professional advisers. Percentage figures may not add up to 100 due to rounding. The expected yield is based upon the underlying holdings. This figure is for information purposes and will not be distributed as cash income. It is automatically reinvested and contributes to the total investment return of the portfolio.

## This Month's Activity

Risk assets delivered the best returns in August, with equity markets in the US, Japan and Emerging Markets displaying strong growth. In the UK and Europe, equities were weaker, while fixed income assets continued to struggle in the wake of unpredictable inflation data and central bank policy shifts. Our Alternatives exposure provided relatively calm passage through volatile markets, with most of our holdings moving only marginally before ending the month relatively flat, albeit with our infrastructure assets posting small gains.

The fall in the value of US Government debt in August gave us the opportunity to increase exposure in our low and medium risk portfolios. The increasing threat of global recession leads us to believe safe haven assets such as US Treasuries will offer protection in the event of a downturn. Should the opposite scenario play out, and inflation slows quicker than forecast, leading to less aggressive tightening from the US Federal Reserve, US government debt should also be well positioned to benefit.

**Please note:** EValue risk tolerance scores are based on a 10-year time horizon. The mappings are only for use by financial advisers licensed to use EValue's risk profiling system and does not constitute financial advice.



## Portfolio Information

Class S Accumulation Share ISIN	Class S Management Fee	Class S Underlying fund charges
------------------------------------	---------------------------	------------------------------------

<b>GB00BLF82B02</b>	<b>0.55%</b>	<b>0.45%</b>
---------------------	--------------	--------------

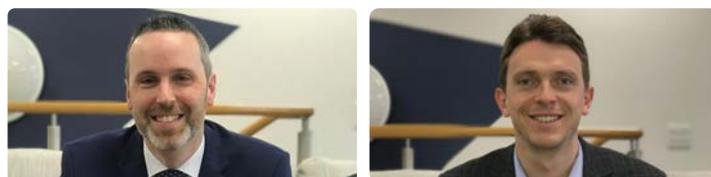
Class F Accumulation Share ISIN	Class F Management Fee	Class F Underlying fund charges
------------------------------------	---------------------------	------------------------------------

<b>GB00BKP3DS21</b>	<b>0.45%</b>	<b>0.45%</b>
---------------------	--------------	--------------

Estimated Annual Income Yield	Number of holdings
-------------------------------	--------------------

<b>2.37%</b>	<b>18</b>
--------------	-----------

## Investment Directors



Gareth Deacon and Alex Sumner co-manage the Blackfinch Asset Management multi-asset portfolio range. They bring expertise in the construction of mainstream investment products, managing private client portfolios and working closely with financial advisers. Each is a chartered fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment.

# ESG at Blackfinch Asset Management

## *Working towards a more sustainable world*

We believe environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors are core to the future success of any business, and that investing in companies aligned with ESG principles can lead to superior returns. We see a positive correlation between companies focused on improving their ESG factors and share price growth. Our aim is to invest in funds that either have a focus on improving sustainability issues, or businesses with strong metrics relating to ESG criteria. Our focus on ESG factors is core to our investment process and integral to how we work. We apply these principles to every portfolio we manage.

## Positive Screening Approach

As stewards of capital, we have a pivotal role in ensuring that the companies we invest in are answerable to ESG concerns. Our positive screening process makes it possible to unearth and support forward-thinking companies, and invest in them via responsible fund managers who actively engage and monitor their ESG targets. We strongly feel fund managers should exercise their power as shareholders to shape the direction of investee companies, and to positively impact the way such businesses are run.

### We invest with a **core focus** on the UN Global Compact Principles

We invest with a central focus on ESG considerations

We take a forward-looking approach to investment selection using positive screening

We encourage 'engagement' with both sustainability 'leaders' and 'improvers'

We're committed to transparency on ESG and reflect this in our investment approach

## ESG in Action

We're pleased to share our ESG insights with you, as well as to highlight some of the positive engagement activities undertaken by funds within our portfolios and the companies they invest in.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL HOUSING ON WELLBEING**

Social housing plays a pivotal role in our society, as it provides homes for some of the most vulnerable who often require support on complex issues. Research demonstrates suitably managed and allocated social housing can reduce levels of anxiety compared with private rental, which has become even more important as the cost of living intensifies in the UK. Several social housing companies have been known to provide limited environmental, social and governance (ESG) disclosures on tenant safety and wellbeing. As such, one of the fund management companies within our Fixed Income strategy tackled the issue directly.

The investment team began sector-wide engagement with all social housing providers in their portfolio and in parallel, worked to raise awareness of the Sustainability Reporting Standard (SRS) for all social housing providers in the industry. The team participated in numerous events and webinars to help promote the benefits of improved disclosures, and explained how this can positively impact tenants' lives. This activity gathered industry momentum within parliament, after the team submitted evidence of how social housing regulation needed improving. We are fully aligned with the activity carried out by the investment team, as we believe company transparency helps deliver a more effective service for our clients.



Request our ESG Policy document for more information.

VT Blackfinch Cautious Portfolio  
Fund Factsheet  
**August 2022**

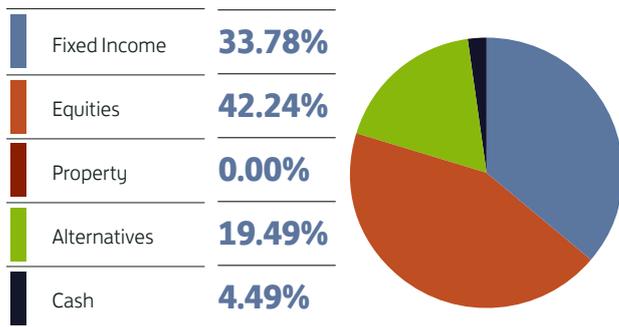


Targeting CPI  
**+2%**  
per annum, over a rolling  
5 year basis net of fees.

## Investment Objective

The Cautious portfolio is designed to achieve a total return in excess, of the Consumer Price Index plus 2% per annum, over a rolling 5 year basis net of fees. The portfolio is globally diversified and contains multi asset investments including fixed income, equities, property, alternatives and cash. Exposure to fixed income, equities, property, alternatives is via collective investment schemes. There is no guarantee that the objective will be met or that a positive return will be delivered over any time period. Capital at risk.

## Asset Allocation (as at 31/08/2022)



## Tactical Deviation

Fixed Income	<b>0.78%</b>	Overweight
Equities	<b>2.24%</b>	Overweight
Property	<b>-6.50%</b>	Underweight
Alternatives	<b>3.99%</b>	Overweight
Cash	<b>-0.51%</b>	Underweight

## Market Commentary

There was an air of optimism in equity markets in August, after US inflation numbers for July cooled from a 40-year year-on-year high of 9.1% in June to 8.5% in July. This was the first-time the inflation data dipped below market expectations in several months, and it gave investors reasons for optimism that the US Federal Reserve (Fed) would be less aggressive with interest rate hikes at its next meeting. Positive economic data continued in the US in the form of strong jobs data, an upwards revision to growth in household consumption, and confirmation that the US economy shrank by less than estimated in the second quarter.

While this was viewed as good news, the Fed made it abundantly clear that future rate hikes would be dictated by economic data. Therefore, stronger data points increase the likelihood of more aggressive action from the central bank. Fed Chair Jerome Powell confirmed as much at the Jackson Hole symposium at the end of August, reiterating that while the Fed's commitment to controlling inflation would bring some pain to households and businesses, a failure to restore price stability would cause even greater pain.

In the UK, inflation as measured by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 10.1% in the 12 months to July 2022, up from 9.4% in June. This was the first double-digit reading since February 1982. At its August meeting, the Bank of England (BoE) raised interest rates by the expected 0.50% to 1.75%, the largest single increase since 1995 and the sixth consecutive rate hike. Of greater concern were the BoE's economic projections that the UK faces its longest recession since the global financial crisis and that inflation is set to peak at nearly 13.5% in October. These sobering predictions indicate the BoE has little option but to engineer a more aggressive economic downturn in order to bring inflation under control.

In contrast to the west, China continues to experience low inflation, the consequence of sporadic outbreaks of COVID-19 and its strict 'Zero COVID' control policies that have curtailed both business and consumer spending. However, in August, China's National Bureau of Statistics reported that its annual inflation rate hit a two-year high in July of 2.7%, up from June's figure of 2.5%, but still below market expectations of 2.8%.

## Performance

3 months	<b>-0.41%</b>
6 months	<b>-1.94%</b>
12 months	<b>-8.00%</b>
Since Inception*	<b>8.39%</b>

*Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.*

\*Date of inception: 1st May 2020.

All Blackfinch unitised fund performance figures are quoted net of AMC and fund OCFs. The above performance is that of the F Accumulation Share Class.

## Portfolio Holdings (as at 31/08/2022)

Vanguard - FTSE 100 Index Unit Trust	9.57%
iShares - US Equity Index (UK)	6.44%
Ninety One - Diversified Income	4.92%
Rathbone - Ethical Bond	4.87%
FP Foresight - Global Real Infrastructure	4.57%
Pimco GIS - Income	4.52%
Vanguard - US Government Bond Index	4.15%
Capital Group - Global High income Opportunities	4.10%
Jupiter - Japan Income	4.05%
Liontrust - Monthly Income Bond	4.03%
JPM - Global Macro Opportunities	3.67%
HSBC - European Index	3.51%
Vanguard - Global Bond Index Hedged	3.44%
BNY Mellon - Global Dynamic Bond	3.31%
Federated Hermes - Unconstrained Credit	3.27%
JPM - Emerging Markets Sustainable Equity	3.21%
Fidelity - Asian Dividend	3.18%
Brandywine - Global Income Optimiser	3.06%
Brown Advisory - US Sustainable Growth	3.04%
JPM - US Equity Income	3.02%
VT RM - Alternative Income	3.01%
Vanguard - UK Government Bond Index	2.34%
Comgest - Growth Japan	2.21%
Franklin - UK Equity Income	2.06%
Liontrust - Special Situations	1.95%
Cash	4.49%

### All data as at 31st August 2022, unless specified otherwise.

Blackfinch Asset Management is an appointed representative of Blackfinch Investments Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Registered address: 1350-1360 Montpellier Court, Gloucester Business Park, Gloucester, GL3 4AH. Registered Company in England & Wales under No. 11639647. The Blackfinch Asset Management Portfolios are actively managed by Blackfinch Investments Limited. Blackfinch Asset Management Limited act as the promoter and distributor of the model portfolios. Capital at risk. This factsheet is based on a model portfolio. No guarantee can be made as to the composition of any individual portfolio. All figures are correct at the time of compilation. Any decision to invest in this service should not be based solely on this factsheet but rather made in conjunction with the information contained in the brochure, and the terms and conditions. Prospective investors must rely on their own examination of the legal, taxation, financial and other consequences of investing and the risk involved. Prospective investors should not treat the contents of this factsheet as advice relating to legal, taxation or other matters. If in any doubt about the proposal discussed in this factsheet, its suitability, or what action should be taken, the investor should consult their own professional advisers. Percentage figures may not add up to 100 due to rounding. The expected yield is based upon the underlying holdings. This figure is for information purposes and will not be distributed as cash income. It is automatically reinvested and contributes to the total investment return of the portfolio.

## This Month's Activity

Risk assets delivered the best returns in August, with equity markets in the US, Japan and Emerging Markets displaying strong growth. In the UK and Europe, equities were weaker, while fixed income assets continued to struggle in the wake of unpredictable inflation data and central bank policy shifts. Our Alternatives exposure provided relatively calm passage through volatile markets, with most of our holdings moving only marginally before ending the month relatively flat, albeit with our infrastructure assets posting small gains.

The fall in the value of US Government debt in August gave us the opportunity to increase exposure in our low and medium risk portfolios. The increasing threat of global recession leads us to believe safe haven assets such as US Treasuries will offer protection in the event of a downturn. Should the opposite scenario play out, and inflation slows quicker than forecast, leading to less aggressive tightening from the US Federal Reserve, US government debt should also be well positioned to benefit.

**Please note:** EValue risk tolerance scores are based on a 10-year time horizon. The mappings are only for use by financial advisers licensed to use EValue's risk profiling system and does not constitute financial advice.



## Portfolio Information

Class S Accumulation Share ISIN	Class S Management Fee	Class S Underlying fund charges
------------------------------------	---------------------------	------------------------------------

<b>GB00BLF82D26</b>	<b>0.55%</b>	<b>0.53%</b>
---------------------	--------------	--------------

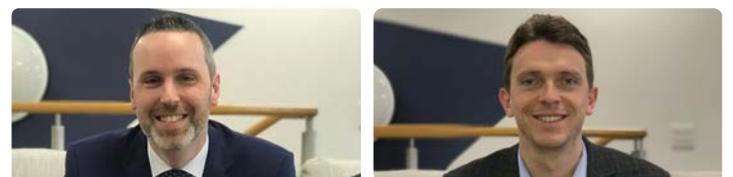
Class F Accumulation Share ISIN	Class F Management Fee	Class F Underlying fund charges
------------------------------------	---------------------------	------------------------------------

<b>GB00BKP3DX73</b>	<b>0.45%</b>	<b>0.53%</b>
---------------------	--------------	--------------

Estimated Annual Income Yield	Number of holdings
-------------------------------	--------------------

<b>2.46%</b>	<b>25</b>
--------------	-----------

## Investment Directors



Gareth Deacon and Alex Sumner co-manage the Blackfinch Asset Management multi-asset portfolio range. They bring expertise in the construction of mainstream investment products, managing private client portfolios and working closely with financial advisers. Each is a chartered fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment.

# ESG at Blackfinch Asset Management

## *Working towards a more sustainable world*

We believe environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors are core to the future success of any business, and that investing in companies aligned with ESG principles can lead to superior returns. We see a positive correlation between companies focused on improving their ESG factors and share price growth. Our aim is to invest in funds that either have a focus on improving sustainability issues, or businesses with strong metrics relating to ESG criteria. Our focus on ESG factors is core to our investment process and integral to how we work. We apply these principles to every portfolio we manage.

### Positive Screening Approach

As stewards of capital, we have a pivotal role in ensuring that the companies we invest in are answerable to ESG concerns. Our positive screening process makes it possible to unearth and support forward-thinking companies, and invest in them via responsible fund managers who actively engage and monitor their ESG targets. We strongly feel fund managers should exercise their power as shareholders to shape the direction of investee companies, and to positively impact the way such businesses are run.

### We invest with a **core focus** on the UN Global Compact Principles

We invest with a central focus on ESG considerations

We take a forward-looking approach to investment selection using positive screening

We encourage 'engagement' with both sustainability 'leaders' and 'improvers'

We're committed to transparency on ESG and reflect this in our investment approach

### ESG in Action

We're pleased to share our ESG insights with you, as well as to highlight some of the positive engagement activities undertaken by funds within our portfolios and the companies they invest in.

#### **THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL HOUSING ON WELLBEING**

Social housing plays a pivotal role in our society, as it provides homes for some of the most vulnerable who often require support on complex issues. Research demonstrates suitably managed and allocated social housing can reduce levels of anxiety compared with private rental, which has become even more important as the cost of living intensifies in the UK. Several social housing companies have been known to provide limited environmental, social and governance (ESG) disclosures on tenant safety and wellbeing. As such, one of the fund management companies within our Fixed Income strategy tackled the issue directly.

The investment team began sector-wide engagement with all social housing providers in their portfolio and in parallel, worked to raise awareness of the Sustainability Reporting Standard (SRS) for all social housing providers in the industry. The team participated in numerous events and webinars to help promote the benefits of improved disclosures, and explained how this can positively impact tenants' lives. This activity gathered industry momentum within parliament, after the team submitted evidence of how social housing regulation needed improving. We are fully aligned with the activity carried out by the investment team, as we believe company transparency helps deliver a more effective service for our clients.



Request our ESG Policy document for more information.

## VT Blackfinch Balanced Portfolio Fund Factsheet August 2022



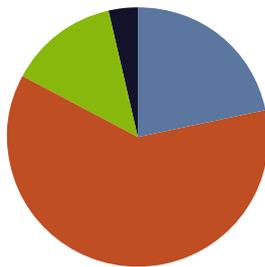
Targeting CPI  
**+3%**  
per annum, over a rolling  
5 year basis net of fees.

### Investment Objective

The Balanced portfolio is designed to achieve a total return in excess, of the Consumer Price Index plus 3% per annum, over a rolling 5 year basis net of fees. The portfolio is globally diversified and contains multi asset investments including fixed income, equities, property, alternatives and cash. Exposure to fixed income, equities, property, alternatives is via collective investment schemes. There is no guarantee that the objective will be met or that a positive return will be delivered over any time period. Capital at risk.

### Asset Allocation (as at 31/08/2022)

Fixed Income	<b>23.69%</b>
Equities	<b>57.71%</b>
Property	<b>0.00%</b>
Alternatives	<b>15.31%</b>
Cash	<b>3.30%</b>



### Tactical Deviation

Fixed Income	<b>0.69%</b>	Overweight
Equities	<b>1.71%</b>	Overweight
Property	<b>-6.00%</b>	Underweight
Alternatives	<b>3.31%</b>	Overweight
Cash	<b>0.30%</b>	Overweight

### Market Commentary

There was an air of optimism in equity markets in August, after US inflation numbers for July cooled from a 40-year year-on-year high of 9.1% in June to 8.5% in July. This was the first-time the inflation data dipped below market expectations in several months, and it gave investors reasons for optimism that the US Federal Reserve (Fed) would be less aggressive with interest rate hikes at its next meeting. Positive economic data continued in the US in the form of strong jobs data, an upwards revision to growth in household consumption, and confirmation that the US economy shrank by less than estimated in the second quarter.

While this was viewed as good news, the Fed made it abundantly clear that future rate hikes would be dictated by economic data. Therefore, stronger data points increase the likelihood of more aggressive action from the central bank. Fed Chair Jerome Powell confirmed as much at the Jackson Hole symposium at the end of August, reiterating that while the Fed's commitment to controlling inflation would bring some pain to households and businesses, a failure to restore price stability would cause even greater pain.

In the UK, inflation as measured by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 10.1% in the 12 months to July 2022, up from 9.4% in June. This was the first double-digit reading since February 1982. At its August meeting, the Bank of England (BoE) raised interest rates by the expected 0.50% to 1.75%, the largest single increase since 1995 and the sixth consecutive rate hike. Of greater concern were the BoE's economic projections that the UK faces its longest recession since the global financial crisis and that inflation is set to peak at nearly 13.5% in October. These sobering predictions indicate the BoE has little option but to engineer a more aggressive economic downturn in order to bring inflation under control.

In contrast to the west, China continues to experience low inflation, the consequence of sporadic outbreaks of COVID-19 and its strict 'Zero COVID' control policies that have curtailed both business and consumer spending. However, in August, China's National Bureau of Statistics reported that its annual inflation rate hit a two-year high in July of 2.7%, up from June's figure of 2.5%, but still below market expectations of 2.8%.

### Performance

3 months	<b>0.41%</b>
6 months	<b>-0.42%</b>
12 months	<b>-7.59%</b>
Since Inception*	<b>13.23%</b>

*Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.*

*\*Date of inception: 1st May 2020.*

*All Blackfinch unitised fund performance figures are quoted net of AMC and fund OCFs. The above performance is that of the F Accumulation Share Class.*

## Portfolio Holdings (as at 31/08/2022)

Vanguard - FTSE 100 Index Unit Trust	9.62%
iShares - US Equity Index (UK)	7.96%
FP Foresight - Global Real Infrastructure	6.23%
Jupiter - Japan Income	5.92%
VT RM - Alternative Income	5.56%
JPM - Emerging Markets Sustainable Equity	4.20%
JPM - US Equity Income	4.12%
Brown Advisory - US Sustainable Growth	3.82%
Rathbone - Ethical Bond	3.77%
Fidelity - Asian Dividend	3.55%
Capital Group - Global High income Opportunities	3.53%
JPM - Global Macro Opportunities	3.51%
Vanguard - US Government Bond Index	3.07%
Vanguard - Global Bond Index Hedged	3.05%
Franklin - UK Equity Income	3.02%
Comgest - Growth Japan	2.97%
Liontrust - Monthly Income Bond	2.69%
HSBC - European Index	2.42%
M&G - Emerging Markets Bond	2.27%
T. Rowe Price - US Smaller Companies Equity	2.11%
Federated Hermes - Unconstrained Credit	2.00%
Brandywine - Global Income Optimiser	2.00%
iShares - Pacific ex Japan Equity Index	1.99%
Premier Miton - European Opportunities	1.54%
Liontrust - Special Situations	1.50%
Montanaro - UK Income	1.49%
Man GLG - Continental European Growth	1.47%
Vanguard - UK Government Bond Index	1.31%
Cash	3.30%

### All data as at 31st August 2022, unless specified otherwise.

Blackfinch Asset Management is an appointed representative of Blackfinch Investments Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Registered address: 1350–1360 Montpellier Court, Gloucester Business Park, Gloucester, GL3 4AH. Registered Company in England & Wales under No. 11639647. The Blackfinch Asset Management Portfolios are actively managed by Blackfinch Investments Limited. Blackfinch Asset Management Limited act as the promoter and distributor of the model portfolios. Capital at risk. This factsheet is based on a model portfolio. No guarantee can be made as to the composition of any individual portfolio. All figures are correct at the time of compilation. Any decision to invest in this service should not be based solely on this factsheet but rather made in conjunction with the information contained in the brochure, and the terms and conditions. Prospective investors must rely on their own examination of the legal, taxation, financial and other consequences of investing and the risk involved. Prospective investors should not treat the contents of this factsheet as advice relating to legal, taxation or other matters. If in any doubt about the proposal discussed in this factsheet, its suitability, or what action should be taken, the investor should consult their own professional advisers. Percentage figures may not add up to 100 due to rounding. The expected yield is based upon the underlying holdings. This figure is for information purposes and will not be distributed as cash income. It is automatically reinvested and contributes to the total investment return of the portfolio.

## This Month's Activity

Risk assets delivered the best returns in August, with equity markets in the US, Japan and Emerging Markets displaying strong growth. In the UK and Europe, equities were weaker, while fixed income assets continued to struggle in the wake of unpredictable inflation data and central bank policy shifts. Our Alternatives exposure provided relatively calm passage through volatile markets, with most of our holdings moving only marginally before ending the month relatively flat, albeit with our infrastructure assets posting small gains.

The fall in the value of US Government debt in August gave us the opportunity to increase exposure in our low and medium risk portfolios. The increasing threat of global recession leads us to believe safe haven assets such as US Treasuries will offer protection in the event of a downturn. Should the opposite scenario play out, and inflation slows quicker than forecast, leading to less aggressive tightening from the US Federal Reserve, US government debt should also be well positioned to benefit.

**Please note:** EValue risk tolerance scores are based on a 10-year time horizon. The mappings are only for use by financial advisers licensed to use EValue's risk profiling system and does not constitute financial advice.



## Portfolio Information

Class S Accumulation Share ISIN	Class S Management Fee	Class S Underlying fund charges
------------------------------------	---------------------------	------------------------------------

<b>GB00BLF82K92</b>	<b>0.55%</b>	<b>0.59%</b>
---------------------	--------------	--------------

Class F Accumulation Share ISIN	Class F Management Fee	Class F Underlying fund charges
------------------------------------	---------------------------	------------------------------------

<b>GB00BKMPSP30</b>	<b>0.45%</b>	<b>0.59%</b>
---------------------	--------------	--------------

Estimated Annual Income Yield

**2.26%**

Number of holdings

**28**

## Investment Directors



Gareth Deacon and Alex Sumner co-manage the Blackfinch Asset Management multi-asset portfolio range. They bring expertise in the construction of mainstream investment products, managing private client portfolios and working closely with financial advisers. Each is a chartered fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment.

# ESG at Blackfinch Asset Management

## *Working towards a more sustainable world*

We believe environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors are core to the future success of any business, and that investing in companies aligned with ESG principles can lead to superior returns. We see a positive correlation between companies focused on improving their ESG factors and share price growth. Our aim is to invest in funds that either have a focus on improving sustainability issues, or businesses with strong metrics relating to ESG criteria. Our focus on ESG factors is core to our investment process and integral to how we work. We apply these principles to every portfolio we manage.

## Positive Screening Approach

As stewards of capital, we have a pivotal role in ensuring that the companies we invest in are answerable to ESG concerns. Our positive screening process makes it possible to unearth and support forward-thinking companies, and invest in them via responsible fund managers who actively engage and monitor their ESG targets. We strongly feel fund managers should exercise their power as shareholders to shape the direction of investee companies, and to positively impact the way such businesses are run.

### We invest with a **core focus** on the UN Global Compact Principles

We invest with a central focus on ESG considerations

We take a forward-looking approach to investment selection using positive screening

We encourage 'engagement' with both sustainability 'leaders' and 'improvers'

We're committed to transparency on ESG and reflect this in our investment approach

## ESG in Action

We're pleased to share our ESG insights with you, as well as to highlight some of the positive engagement activities undertaken by funds within our portfolios and the companies they invest in.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL HOUSING ON WELLBEING**

Social housing plays a pivotal role in our society, as it provides homes for some of the most vulnerable who often require support on complex issues. Research demonstrates suitably managed and allocated social housing can reduce levels of anxiety compared with private rental, which has become even more important as the cost of living intensifies in the UK. Several social housing companies have been known to provide limited environmental, social and governance (ESG) disclosures on tenant safety and wellbeing. As such, one of the fund management companies within our Fixed Income strategy tackled the issue directly.

The investment team began sector-wide engagement with all social housing providers in their portfolio and in parallel, worked to raise awareness of the Sustainability Reporting Standard (SRS) for all social housing providers in the industry. The team participated in numerous events and webinars to help promote the benefits of improved disclosures, and explained how this can positively impact tenants' lives. This activity gathered industry momentum within parliament, after the team submitted evidence of how social housing regulation needed improving. We are fully aligned with the activity carried out by the investment team, as we believe company transparency helps deliver a more effective service for our clients.



Request our ESG Policy document for more information.

## VT Blackfinch Income Portfolio Fund Factsheet August 2022



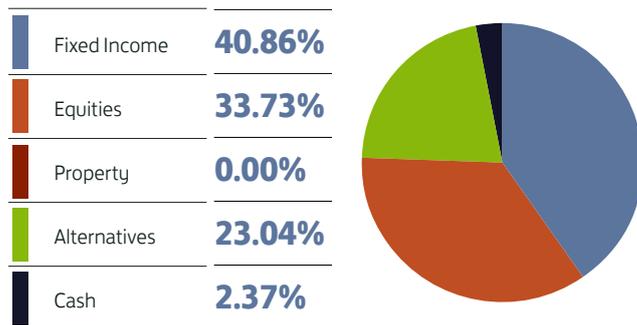
Targeting  
**3.5%**  
Net income per annum

Payments from the Income Fund are made monthly

### Investment Objective

The Income portfolio is designed to achieve a yield of 3.5% per annum net of fees. The portfolio is globally diversified and contains multi asset investments including fixed income, equities, property, alternatives and cash. Exposure to fixed income, equities, property, alternatives is via collective investment schemes. There is no guarantee that the objective will be met or that a positive return will be delivered over any time period. Capital at risk.

### Asset Allocation (as at 31/08/2022)



### Tactical Deviation

Fixed Income	<b>2.66%</b>	Overweight
Equities	<b>-3.87%</b>	Underweight
Property	<b>-10.00%</b>	Underweight
Alternatives	<b>11.84%</b>	Overweight
Cash	<b>-0.63%</b>	Underweight

### Market Commentary

There was an air of optimism in equity markets in August, after US inflation numbers for July cooled from a 40-year year-on-year high of 9.1% in June to 8.5% in July. This was the first-time the inflation data dipped below market expectations in several months, and it gave investors reasons for optimism that the US Federal Reserve (Fed) would be less aggressive with interest rate hikes at its next meeting. Positive economic data continued in the US in the form of strong jobs data, an upwards revision to growth in household consumption, and confirmation that the US economy shrank by less than estimated in the second quarter.

While this was viewed as good news, the Fed made it abundantly clear that future rate hikes would be dictated by economic data. Therefore, stronger data points increase the likelihood of more aggressive action from the central bank. Fed Chair Jerome Powell confirmed as much at the Jackson Hole symposium at the end of August, reiterating that while the Fed's commitment to controlling inflation would bring some pain to households and businesses, a failure to restore price stability would cause even greater pain.

In the UK, inflation as measured by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rose by 10.1% in the 12 months to July 2022, up from 9.4% in June. This was the first double-digit reading since February 1982. At its August meeting, the Bank of England (BoE) raised interest rates by the expected 0.50% to 1.75%, the largest single increase since 1995 and the sixth consecutive rate hike. Of greater concern were the BoE's economic projections that the UK faces its longest recession since the global financial crisis and that inflation is set to peak at nearly 13.5% in October. These sobering predictions indicate the BoE has little option but to engineer a more aggressive economic downturn in order to bring inflation under control.

In contrast to the west, China continues to experience low inflation, the consequence of sporadic outbreaks of COVID-19 and its strict 'Zero COVID' control policies that have curtailed both business and consumer spending. However, in August, China's National Bureau of Statistics reported that its annual inflation rate hit a two-year high in July of 2.7%, up from June's figure of 2.5%, but still below market expectations of 2.8%.

### Performance

3 months	<b>-0.81%</b>
6 months	<b>-0.99%</b>
12 months	<b>-5.15%</b>
Since Inception*	<b>12.96%</b>

*Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.*

\*Date of inception: 1st May 2020.

All Blackfinch unitised fund performance figures are quoted net of AMC and fund OCFs. The above performance is that of the F Accumulation Share Class.

## Portfolio Holdings (as at 31/08/2022)

Ninety One - Diversified Income	7.68%
Pimco GIS - Income	7.02%
VT RM - Alternative Income	6.27%
Capital Group - Global High income Opportunities	6.21%
Brandywine - Global Income Optimiser	5.57%
Vanguard - FTSE 100 Index Unit Trust	5.47%
Rathbone - Ethical Bond	5.18%
FP Foresight - Global Real Infrastructure	5.10%
Fidelity - Asian Dividend	5.08%
Federated Hermes - Unconstrained Credit	4.70%
iShares - Overseas Corporate Bond Index	4.65%
Sanlam - Real Assets	3.99%
Liontrust - Monthly Income Bond	3.85%
Montanaro - European Income	3.83%
M&G - Emerging Markets Bond	3.67%
JPM - US Equity Income	3.61%
Fidelity - Index US	3.48%
Artemis - Income	3.39%
Jupiter - Japan Income	3.02%
BlackRock - Continental European Income	2.99%
Montanaro - UK Income	2.86%
Cash	2.37%

### All data as at 31st August 2022, unless specified otherwise.

Blackfinch Asset Management is an appointed representative of Blackfinch Investments Limited which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Registered address: 1350–1360 Montpellier Court, Gloucester Business Park, Gloucester, GL3 4AH. Registered Company in England & Wales under No. 11639647. The Blackfinch Asset Management Portfolios are actively managed by Blackfinch Investments Limited. Blackfinch Asset Management Limited act as the promoter and distributor of the model portfolios. Capital at risk. This factsheet is based on a model portfolio. No guarantee can be made as to the composition of any individual portfolio. All figures are correct at the time of compilation. Any decision to invest in this service should not be based solely on this factsheet but rather made in conjunction with the information contained in the brochure, and the terms and conditions. Prospective investors must rely on their own examination of the legal, taxation, financial and other consequences of investing and the risk involved. Prospective investors should not treat the contents of this factsheet as advice relating to legal, taxation or other matters. If in any doubt about the proposal discussed in this factsheet, its suitability, or what action should be taken, the investor should consult their own professional advisers. Percentage figures may not add up to 100 due to rounding. The expected yield is based upon the underlying holdings. This figure is for information purposes and will not be distributed as cash income. It is automatically reinvested and contributes to the total investment return of the portfolio.

## This Month's Activity

Risk assets delivered the best returns in August, with equity markets in the US, Japan and Emerging Markets displaying strong growth. In the UK and Europe, equities were weaker, while fixed income assets continued to struggle in the wake of unpredictable inflation data and central bank policy shifts. Our Alternatives exposure provided relatively calm passage through volatile markets, with most of our holdings moving only marginally before ending the month relatively flat, albeit with our infrastructure assets posting small gains.

The fall in the value of US Government debt in August gave us the opportunity to increase exposure in our low and medium risk portfolios. The increasing threat of global recession leads us to believe safe haven assets such as US Treasuries will offer protection in the event of a downturn. Should the opposite scenario play out, and inflation slows quicker than forecast, leading to less aggressive tightening from the US Federal Reserve, US government debt should also be well positioned to benefit.

**Please note:** EValue risk tolerance scores are based on a 10-year time horizon. The mappings are only for use by financial advisers licensed to use EValue's risk profiling system and does not constitute financial advice.



## Portfolio Information

Class S Accumulation Share ISIN <b>GB00BLF82M17</b>	Class S Management Fee <b>0.55%</b>	Class S Underlying fund charges <b>0.72%</b>
--	--	---

Class S Income Share ISIN

**GB00BLF82N24**

Class F Accumulation Share ISIN

**GB00BKMPST77**

Class F Income Share ISIN

**GB00BKMPSS60**

Estimated Annual Income Yield

**3.69%**

Number of holdings

**21**

## Investment Directors



Gareth Deacon and Alex Sumner co-manage the Blackfinch Asset Management multi-asset portfolio range. They bring expertise in the construction of mainstream investment products, managing private client portfolios and working closely with financial advisers. Each is a chartered fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment.

# ESG at Blackfinch Asset Management

## *Working towards a more sustainable world*

We believe environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors are core to the future success of any business, and that investing in companies aligned with ESG principles can lead to superior returns. We see a positive correlation between companies focused on improving their ESG factors and share price growth. Our aim is to invest in funds that either have a focus on improving sustainability issues, or businesses with strong metrics relating to ESG criteria. Our focus on ESG factors is core to our investment process and integral to how we work. We apply these principles to every portfolio we manage.

### Positive Screening Approach

As stewards of capital, we have a pivotal role in ensuring that the companies we invest in are answerable to ESG concerns. Our positive screening process makes it possible to unearth and support forward-thinking companies, and invest in them via responsible fund managers who actively engage and monitor their ESG targets. We strongly feel fund managers should exercise their power as shareholders to shape the direction of investee companies, and to positively impact the way such businesses are run.

### We invest with a **core focus** on the UN Global Compact Principles

We invest with a central focus on ESG considerations

We take a forward-looking approach to investment selection using positive screening

We encourage 'engagement' with both sustainability 'leaders' and 'improvers'

We're committed to transparency on ESG and reflect this in our investment approach

### ESG in Action

We're pleased to share our ESG insights with you, as well as to highlight some of the positive engagement activities undertaken by funds within our portfolios and the companies they invest in.

#### **THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL HOUSING ON WELLBEING**

Social housing plays a pivotal role in our society, as it provides homes for some of the most vulnerable who often require support on complex issues. Research demonstrates suitably managed and allocated social housing can reduce levels of anxiety compared with private rental, which has become even more important as the cost of living intensifies in the UK. Several social housing companies have been known to provide limited environmental, social and governance (ESG) disclosures on tenant safety and wellbeing. As such, one of the fund management companies within our Fixed Income strategy tackled the issue directly.

The investment team began sector-wide engagement with all social housing providers in their portfolio and in parallel, worked to raise awareness of the Sustainability Reporting Standard (SRS) for all social housing providers in the industry. The team participated in numerous events and webinars to help promote the benefits of improved disclosures, and explained how this can positively impact tenants' lives. This activity gathered industry momentum within parliament, after the team submitted evidence of how social housing regulation needed improving. We are fully aligned with the activity carried out by the investment team, as we believe company transparency helps deliver a more effective service for our clients.



Request our ESG Policy document for more information.