



MPS-DEFENSIVE STRATEGY

DECEMBER 2019



INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The objective of this portfolio is to focus on capital preservation over the medium to longer term. Investors should expect lower levels of reward and a lower correlation to stock market behaviour, with modest fluctuations in value.

KEY INFORMATION

Launch Date	January 2013
Estimated Yield (Current)	1.16%
Initial Charge	0.00%
Investment Management Charge	0.25% (+VAT)
Fund Underlying Charges	0.56%

TOP HOLDINGS

TwentyFour Absolute Return Credit	30.4%	AXA Sterling Credit Short Duration	11.8%
TwentyFour Monument Bond	30.4%	Cash	2.00%
Artemis Strategic Bond	25.5%		

RISK LEVEL



DEFENSIVE

BALANCED

ADVENTUROUS

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Our investment strategy has three key components:

ASSET ALLOCATION > Focused on analysing the economic and financial environment, assessing the prospective returns and risks of each of the major asset classes, both over the short and long term.

FUND SELECTION > Our rigorous fund selection process involves assessing which funds best allow us to gain exposure to the most attractive asset classes, regions and themes.

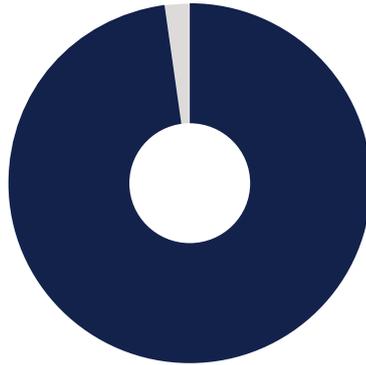
PORTFOLIO CONSTRUCTION > These two building blocks are then combined to create portfolios which are designed to meet their specific objectives and are actively managed with regular rebalancing.

The process is run by our research and strategy team and overseen by our investment committee to ensure that the portfolios are managed in line with their objectives and risks are kept to appropriate levels.

OUR PORTFOLIO

ASSET ALLOCATION

■ Bonds	98.0%
■ Cash	2.0%



Equity markets ended 2019 on a strong note as hopes have grown of a recovery in global growth on the back of the widespread easing of monetary policy and more recently the reduction in US-China trade tensions. An upturn in global growth over the coming year should fuel a pick-up in corporate earnings, which in turn should provide the basis for further gains in equities.

Equity valuations, however, have risen substantially over the last year, limiting somewhat the scope for further price increases. Even so, prospective returns looked significantly higher for equities than for bonds where the low level of yields leaves return prospects looking very limited.

We increased our equity exposure significantly over the past year and our equity weighting is now back to neutral. We feel this is appropriate as even though the economic outlook has improved markedly, significant risks remain - not least on the geo-political front.

Within equities, we remain positive on Asia/emerging markets and also retain an exposure to various themes such as technology where we believe medium term growth prospects remain favourable. We have also become rather more positive on the UK as political and Brexit-related risks have diminished significantly yet valuations remain relatively cheap.

PERFORMANCE (%)

	Cumulative (%)				
	3 m	1 yr	3 yr	5 yr	Since Launch
Portfolio	0.6%	3.7%	7.2%	7.1%	15.6%

	Calendar Year Performance (%)				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Portfolio	0.5%	-0.6%	3.7%	-0.4%	3.7%

Past performance is not a guide to future returns.

DEFENSIVE MPS (SINCE INCEPTION)



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