

Risk Profile Description

This portfolio is likely to contain lower, medium and higher risk investments, including cash, government bonds, UK corporate bonds and other higher-income types of global bonds as well as UK commercial property. It will also be expected to contain some higher-risk investments such as shares, but held mainly in UK and other developed markets, and a small amount in other higher-risk investments such as shares in emerging markets.

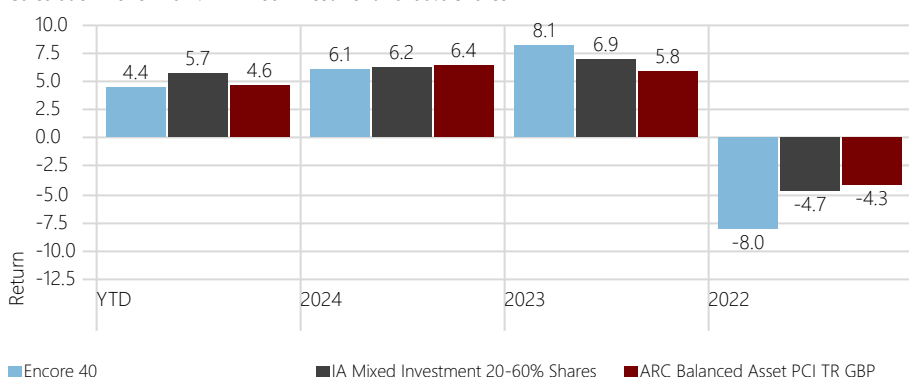
Cumulative Encore 40 returns of £100k invested

Time Period: 29/04/2022 to 31/08/2025



Calendar Year Returns

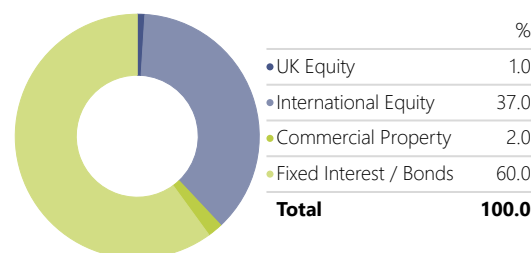
Calculation Benchmark: IA Mixed Investment 20-60% Shares



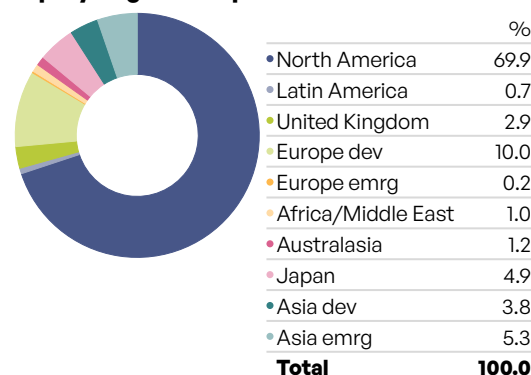
Encore 40 - Portfolio Information

Yield	2.54%
OCF	0.10%
Transaction Charge	0.03%
Investment Management Fee	0.10% + VAT
Rebalance	Quarterly
Benchmarks	IA Mixed Investment 20-60% Shares ARC Balanced Asset PCI TR GBP

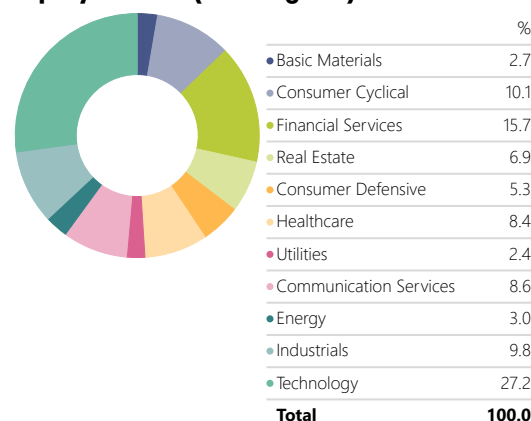
Asset Allocation - Encore 40



Equity Regional Exposure - Encore 40



Equity Sectors (Morningstar) - Encore 40



Display Benchmark 1: IA Mixed Investment 20-60% Shares Display Benchmark 2: ARC Balanced Asset PCI TR GBP

Encore 40 Performance Metrics	Portfolio	Benchmark (IA)	Benchmark (ARC)
Max Drawdown	-13.22	-9.06	-6.37
Best Month %	4.43	3.82	3.32
Worst Month %	-5.94	-4.98	-4.39
Best Quarter	6.77	5.68	4.71
Worst Quarter %	-4.33	-3.07	-1.96

Portfolio Comments

Market Overview - August in review

August was broadly positive for financial markets, with most major asset classes delivering solid returns. Global share markets remain supported by steady economic conditions. Growth is slowing but is still strong enough to support healthy profit growth - especially for larger companies, global brands, and the tech sector. Monetary policy remains accommodative, fiscal policy continues to support economic activity, companies are coping with tariff deals and future debt issuance isn't yet a concern.

Global Economy - A 'Goldilocks' environment

The global economy continues to operate in a 'Goldilocks' state - neither too hot nor too cold. Consumer sentiment is subdued and business investment cautious, but household spending is sustained by strong balance sheets, debt servicing costs remain manageable, and unemployment has only seen a minimal uptick. Manufacturing indicators (PMIs/ISMs) sit around 48-50, indicating stagnation, while services hover at 50-52, showing modest expansion in most major economies. US GDP averaged 1.2% annualised in H1 and is tracking 1-2% into Q3.

US Policy - Rate cut expectations

The key data point in August was the US non-farm payrolls report for July, which pointed to a cooling labour market. At Jackson Hole, Fed Chair Jerome Powell highlighted a shift in the balance of risks and markets are now pricing in a 0.25% rate cut at the September meeting. The White House is pushing for greater rate cuts (at least 1.5% lower) and advocating for changes to Fed leadership, calling for new board members and the resignation of both Powell and Cook.

Inflation - Still a key concern

Global inflation remains persistent and is being fuelled by tariff effects, climate-driven food price volatility, and wage gains from tight labour markets. Central banks remain cautious with policymakers forecasting future easing and inflation returning to target only if labour markets soften and one-off inflation drivers fade. In the UK, headline and core inflation are running at 3.8% per year, above MPC targets, and are likely to rise if energy prices worsen. Despite a waning UK jobs market, BoE rate cut expectations have now been scaled back for 2025. Eurozone inflation is at 2%, allowing the ECB to

pause and assess the effects of recent trade deals on economic activity.

Tariffs - A hidden tax

Annual US tariff revenues are around \$300bn - effectively a 2% GDP drag predominantly affecting lower-income households and small importing businesses. According to Goldman Sachs, the burden mainly falls on US companies (60%), with overseas firms and US consumers also impacted (25% and 15% respectively).

Growth Assets - Regional & factor highlights

Japan outperformed in local terms, driven by the US-Japan trade deal and favourable domestic data. US gains were buoyed by strong Q2 earnings with circa 75% of firms beating estimates by the largest amount since 2021. Nvidia and Microsoft now have market caps rivaling the entire Eurozone blue-chip index, raising concentration concerns. UK equities lagged but remain attractive to income-focused investors. Britain's domestic backdrop looks challenging, but Computershare's Dividend Monitor expects UK dividends to reach £85bn in 2025, a 3% increase YoY. Small caps outperformed their large cap counterparts, buoyed by resilient economic data and potential rate cuts. Momentum underperformed but still posted positive returns.

Defensive Assets - Diverging yields

US Treasuries posted gains of nearly 1%, driven by Chair Jay Powell's dovish Jackson Hole speech. UK gilts came under pressure following another upside surprise to UK inflation in July. In response, investors reduced their expectations for rate cuts by the BoE which raised short-end gilt yields. Longer-dated gilts also underperformed, driven by thin liquidity and ongoing concern about UK fiscal sustainability, with the UK 30-year government bond yield reaching 5.6% (its highest level since 1998).

Final Thoughts - Stay diversified

Valuations across growth assets are slightly above long-run averages, especially in the US. With risks from inflationary pressures, the impact of tariffs on consumer prices, and slowing global trade, investors should ensure their portfolios continue to be well-diversified across regions and asset classes to effectively manage downside risk.

Benchmark Disclaimers

The IA (Investment Association) sector is used as the comparator. This is considered appropriate for investors to use when comparing performance as the sector is made up of funds with a similar asset allocation as defined by the IA. The sector is not constructed as an index, therefore as funds enter or leave, the sector composition can change, but it is considered that the sector remains a useful and relevant comparator for investors to assess performance within a relevant peer group.

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Top Holdings - Encore 40

Portfolio Date: 31/08/2025			
	Equity Style Box	Portfolio Weighting %	
Vanguard Glb Corp Bd Idx Ins Pl £ H Acc		19.95	
Fidelity Index Global Govt Bd S Acc		19.36	
iShares Ovrs Govt Bd Idx (UK) D Acc £Hdg		19.36	
HSBC American Index C Acc		9.16	
Fidelity Index US P Acc		9.16	
Vanguard U.S. Eq Idx Ins Pl £ Acc		9.05	
Vanguard Em Mkts Stk Idx Ins Pl £ Acc		4.23	
Fidelity Index Europe ex UK P Acc		3.97	
L&G Global Real Estate Div Index C Acc		2.05	
Fidelity Index Japan P Acc		1.91	
Fidelity Index UK P Acc		1.20	
Vanguard Pac exJpn Stk Idx Ins Pl £ Acc		0.62	

Morningstar Style Box - Encore 40

Portfolio Date: 31/08/2025

Morningstar Equity Style Box™			Market Cap	%	
	Value	Blend	Growth		
Large				Market Cap Giant %	45.9
				Market Cap Large %	33.4
Mid				Market Cap Mid %	17.1
				Market Cap Small %	3.0
Small				Market Cap Micro %	0.7