



About Blackfinch Group

Blackfinch is an award-winning investment specialist group, working to build a more sustainable world. Based in Gloucester, and employing more than 120 talented members of staff, built on over 30 years of investment track record. We provide capital to property developers, the construction and operation of renewable energy sites, smaller UK technology companies as well as to investment markets to achieve investor returns.

The Blackfinch Group now operates predominantly in two main areas: tax-efficient investment and asset management. Our tax-efficient offerings include Adapt IHT Portfolios (unlisted), Adapt AIM portfolios, Ventures EIS portfolios, VCT and Thrive Corporate Management Service. Blackfinch Asset Management provides unitised funds and managed portfolio services. We currently have more than £650m in assets under management and administration. Blackfinch Group now comprises Blackfinch Investments, Blackfinch Ventures, Blackfinch Energy, Blackfinch Asset Management and Blackfinch Property. The firm remains true to its values to adapt, evolve and thrive. Through investment expertise and high-quality service with a transparent approach, it continues to deliver products that can meet adviser and client needs.

Tax-Efficient Investments

We launched our first tax-efficient investment product, the Adapt Inheritance Tax Portfolios, back in 2013. Since then, we've continued to give our clients access to innovative investment products and services built around government approved tax reliefs, such as Business Relief, the Enterprise Investment Scheme and Venture Capital Trusts. We are also smaller company investment specialists, managing portfolios that invest in companies listed on the Alternative Investment Market that also offer valuable tax incentives.

Asset Management

The Blackfinch Asset Management Managed Portfolio Service (MPS) from Blackfinch Asset Management is a key product for the organisation. Blackfinch has built a team led by Alex Sumner and Gareth Deacon, investing in the right people to offer the service and, aligned with other businesses within Blackfinch. This has resulted in a compelling proposition: a service developed to meet advisers' needs as well as investors' aims. The MPS is a key diversifier for Blackfinch and a priority in the corporate strategy going forward. The management team has committed budget and resource, with the aim to build considerable funds under management in this space in coming years. The MPS team is dedicated solely to the service. It shares a common ambition to partner with select like-minded adviser firms, offering genuine value and high levels of service to help advisers build thriving businesses

Why we wanted to sponsor the report

Environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues are often emotive and complicated, and investment trends can be fast paced. While ESG investing has been around in some form for decades, the recent pace of change has been remarkable. It has taken place against a backdrop of a

public health crisis, disturbing reports of a global climate emergency, critical levels of plastics in our oceans, and demonstrations against inequality. This is reflected in the growth in public awareness in sustainable lifestyles and social justice causes driven by high profile individuals, organisations and social media campaigns. Some advisers may be tiring of ESG, but I believe they are in the minority – there is no doubt in my mind that ESG is not an investment fad. Therefore, at Blackfinch we will continue to do whatever we can to help educate both advisers and their clients on the long-term value and impact that purposeful ESG investing can deliver and why we see this report as being so vital.

What you are actively doing in the ESG & Sustainable space

At Blackfinch, we recognise that environmental issues are often interconnected, and that the E, S and the G should never be viewed in isolation. We see this in our own research on an almost daily basis. A company's poor safety record can be a precursor to environmental incidents, consequent fines and damage to its community relations and its reputation. ESG is complicated, which is why we are continuously strengthening our approach and partnering with other organisations to find common ground. In 2020, Blackfinch became a signatory to the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). We see this as a public demonstration of our pledge to responsible investment, and it places us within a global community committed to building a more sustainable financial system. In a world that must adapt to build a more sustainable long-term future, the financial sector has a huge role to play. We are all facing a huge challenge, but it is one that everyone at Blackfinch are proud to meet.