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RLPPC Climate Aware Buy and Maintain Credit Fund

Quarterly Investment Report

30 September 2026

ROYAL LONDON
ASSET MANAGEMENT

Quarterly Report

The fund as at 30 September 2026

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the RLPPC Climate Aware Buy and Maintain Credit Fund. The report has been produced by Royal London Asset Management. The report starts with a summary dashboard showing key information about the fund. A glossary is located at the end of the report covering the description of some of the more technical terms used within the report. All data is as at the report date unless otherwise stated.

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ROYAL LONDON
ASSET MANAGEMENT

The fund

Fund performance objective

The fund will aim to provide excess income (relative to equivalent UK Government Bonds) over the life of the fund. The RLPPC Enhanced Buy & Maintain Credit Fund aims to achieve an initial credit spread of 1.3-1.6% in excess of gilt yields within an acceptable risk framework. The fund invests predominantly in investment grade bonds. It may also invest in sub-investment grade bonds. The portfolio will be managed with a constant duration of between 8-10 years.

Reference index: There is no benchmark for this fund. The iBoxx Sterling Non-Gilt All Maturities index has been used in this report for reference purposes only.

Fund value

	Total £m
30 September 2026	69.92

Fund analytics

	Fund	Benchmark
Fund launch date	16 January 2017	
Fund base currency	GBP	
Duration (years)	6.13	5.04
Redemption yield (%)	6.72	5.84
Credit spread (%)	1.54	0.71
Number of holdings	183	1,226
Number of issuers	145	476

Performance and activity

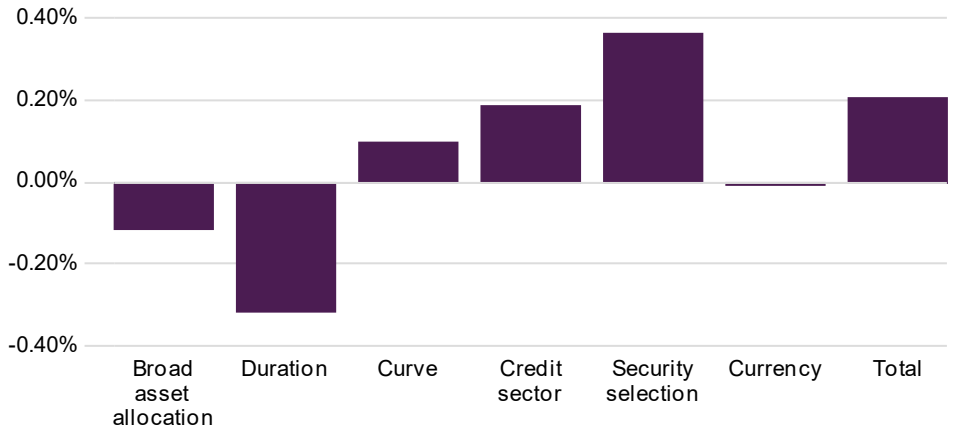
Performance

	Fund (%)	Reference index (%)	Relative (%)
Quarter	(1.57)	(1.74)	0.17
YTD	(0.22)	(0.78)	0.56
1 Year	3.30	1.78	1.52
3 Years (p.a.)	6.68	5.01	1.68
5 Years (p.a.)	(0.01)	(0.66)	0.65
Since inception (p.a.)	2.10	1.32	0.78

Past performance is not a guarantee or reliable indicator of future returns. The impact of fees or other charges, including tax, where applicable, can be material on the performance of your investment. The impact of fees reduces your investment. Please refer to the Glossary for the basis of calculation and impact of fees. Performance and since inception date based on I Inc GBP. Source: Royal London Asset Management; Gross performance; Since inception date of the share class is 16 January 2017.

Please note that with effect from 1 December 2025 the fund name changed from RLPPC Enhanced Buy and Maintain Credit Fund to RLPPC Climate Aware Buy and Maintain Credit Fund

Attribution over the quarter



Performance commentary

There were negative returns from sterling credit investment grade markets (iBoxx) during the third quarter. Against this, the portfolio also saw negative returns. Looking at performance in the context of wider sterling credit markets, using the iBoxx Sterling Non-Gilt index as a reference, the portfolio outperformed.

For sterling credit, the third quarter was dominated by rising government bond yields, with this having a materially larger impact on corporate bonds than changing credit spreads. The carry on the asset class is attractive, and our strategy aim of providing an above-average yield supported performance.

The portfolio has a duration position that is longer than the wider market as part of its objective, and this hurt returns relative to the market. This stance also reflects the value that we are able to find in longer-dated maturities – partly due to relatively strong performance in shorter maturities over the past few years, but also due to the sell-off in longer-dated yields over the same period – rather than a large-scale macro call. Curves flattened modestly, with this a positive factor, given the bias towards medium and longer-dated bonds. reflects bottom-up credit selection, where we find more opportunities in mid and longer-dated bonds, rather than an outright macro-driven stance.

Credit allocation was a small positive over the quarter. This was mainly due to our overweight exposure to the structured sector, which outperformed, supported by our longstanding underweight exposure to supranationals.

Stock selection also contributed positively, most notably within the structured sector. Metrocentre was a standout performer over the quarter. The shopping centre is said to be close to finalising a deal exceeding £500m with preferred bidder Landsec, one of the largest commercial property development and investment companies in the UK, which would see proceeds returned to bondholders. Telereal also did well over the period.

Performance and activity

Top 10 holdings

	Weighting (%)
United Kingdom Gilt 0.5% 22/10/2061	2.22
HSBC Bank Fund 5.844% VRN Perp	2.11
Trafford Centre FRN 28/07/2038	2.01
British Land Co 5.264% 24/9/2035	1.94
Poplar Housing & Regeneration Com 4.843% 30/9/2043	1.76
Electricite De France 6% 23/01/2114	1.72
Meadowhall FInance 4.986% 12/01/2032	1.66
Annes Gate Property 5.661% 30/06/2031	1.49
SW Finance I PLC 7.375% 12/12/41	1.34
HARBOUR FUNDING 5.28% 31/03/2044	1.23
Total	**17.49**

Fund activity

New primary market issuers were moderately active during July and August, and investment grade sterling issuance totalled £7.6bn over those summer months. However, September saw a surge in issuance spiking to £13.9bn for that month alone. This took the total sterling investment grade issuance for the third quarter to £21.5bn. Last year's volume of issuance during the same period stood at £12.8bn.

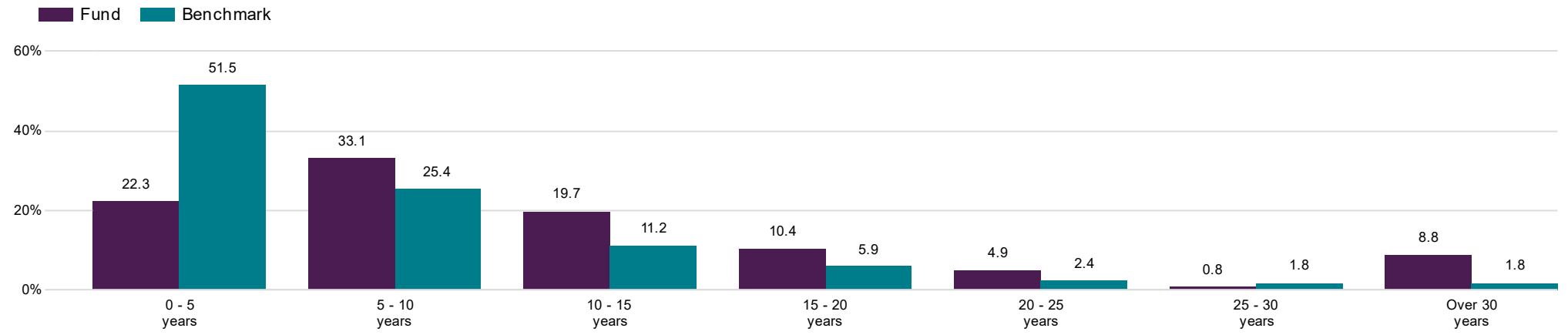
In the banks and financials sector, as well as adding new issues of senior bonds from favoured names such as UBS and HSBC we also added geographic diversification through senior bonds from the Montreal-based Desjardins Group, North America's largest federation of credit unions. In the subordinated area, we added a Tier 2 bond issue from UK mortgage provider Paragon, a small but well capitalised UK specialist lending bank.

Elsewhere in the financial sector, we added tier 2 new issues from UK pension insurance specialist Rothesay Life, as well as health insurer BUPA. We also participated in a senior bond issue by US-owned asset manager Nuveen, offering a clear spread premium over US dollar equivalents.

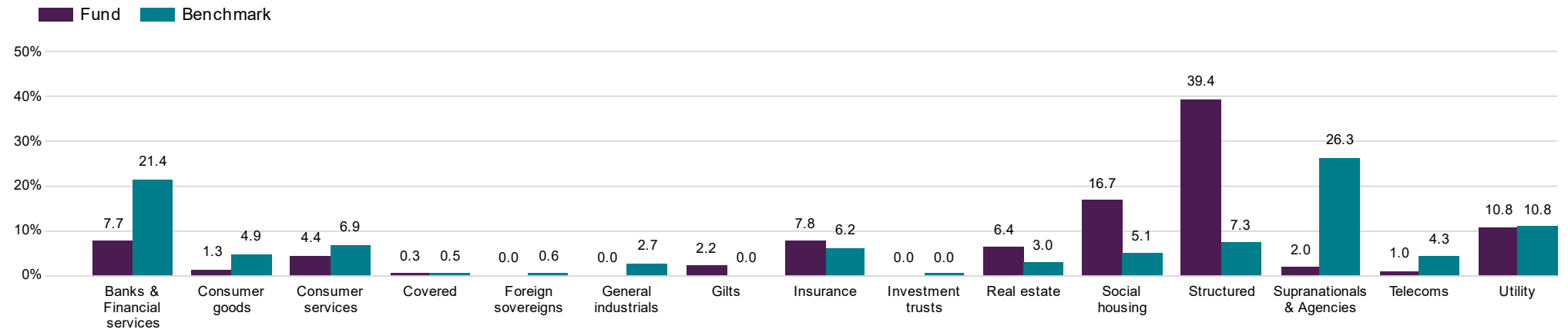
We continue to seek to diversify the portfolio when we believe that opportunities arise, and the quarter presented a number of attractive new issues. Examples included sterling denominated issues from US telecoms giant AT&T which came at an above-market credit spread. In technology, we bought Amazon, the global e-commerce platform, which came to market twice over the quarter, issuing in multiple currencies and maturities. We took a selective approach, adding the sterling 2032 bonds at attractive levels given the strength of the parent. There have been concerns around the sheer amount of hyperscaler issuance: they are now around 2% of the sterling index, and we are happy to have selected exposure to highly rated, robust companies.

Fund breakdown

Maturity profile

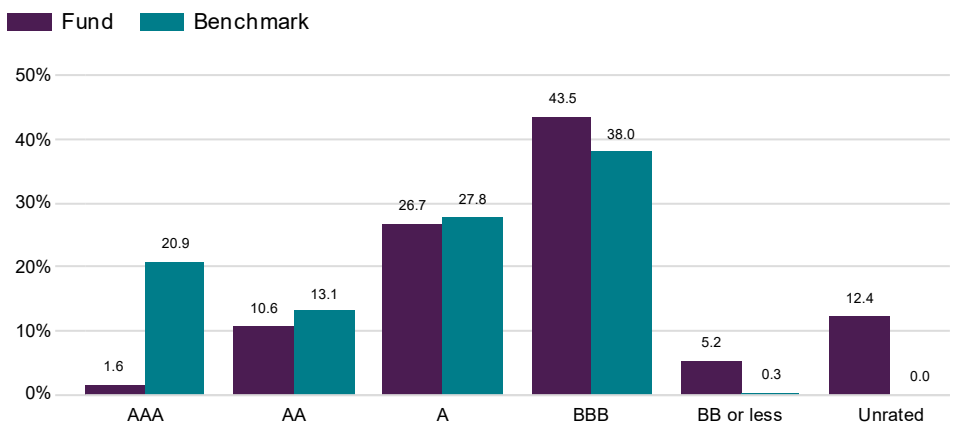


Sector breakdown



Credit ratings

Credit ratings



Downgrades

The table below details directly held credit bonds downgraded from investment grade to sub-investment grade based on the RLAM composite rating during the quarter.

Asset description	Current Rating	Previous Rating
No downgrades this quarter		

Upgrades

The table below details directly held credit bonds upgraded from sub-investment grade to investment grade based on the RLAM composite rating during the quarter.

Asset description	Current Rating	Previous Rating
No upgrades this quarter		

Fund Engagement

Engagement definition

Engagement is active dialogue with investee companies (or other entities). There are two types: engagement for information, which is dialogue as part of investment research or ongoing monitoring, without specific objectives for change, and engagement for change, which is purposeful dialogue to influence positive change, with defined objectives and demonstrable outcomes.

Engagements

Engagement activity	Fund 3 months	Fund 12 months
Number of entities engaged	7	16
Number of engagements	11	48

This is an estimate. Some engagements at the issuer level may not have been attributed to the specific bond held in the fund, resulting in a lower number of engagement activities.

Total engagements by theme and topic



Climate	10
Climate - Transition Risk	10
Governance	1
Corporate Governance	1
Social & Financial Inclusion	1
Just transition	1
Technology, Innovation & Society	2
Technology & Society	2

The numbers of engagements and themes/topics discussed may differ where a single engagement covers multiple themes/topics.

Engagement focus

Firm-wide engagement activity is centred around six themes which we have identified in consultation with our clients. These are: climate change; nature and biodiversity; health; governance and corporate culture; social and financial inclusion; innovation, technology and society. Portfolio level engagements are not thematic and are focussed on issues specific to managing the portfolio and meeting the investment objective.

Engagement data represents all engagements undertaken at both firm and portfolio level across Royal London Asset Management, and may not be limited to those undertaken solely for the purpose of managing the fund.

Fund Engagement

Engagement outcomes

Barclays PLC - Climate - Transition Risk

Purpose:

We engaged Barclays PLC, a global banking and financial services company, as part of Royal London Asset Management's Net Zero Stewardship Programme to assess how the company's climate frameworks influence client engagement, financing decisions and real-world transition outcomes.

Outcome:

Barclays explained that its Client Transition Framework has expanded fivefold and now covers material clients across both its Investment Bank and UK Corporate Bank. Relationship managers own the assessments and use them in client discussions, portfolio reviews and Client Transition Review Forums, with financing limits or relationship constraints applied where appropriate. Barclays emphasised, however, that supporting clients through their real-world transition remains preferable to exiting relationships. We welcomed the framework's increased coverage and practical integration but encouraged the company to publish anonymised case studies demonstrating how assessments influence credit risk appetite, financing decisions and measurable client outcomes. On accountability following Barclays' departure from the Net Zero Banking Alliance (NZBA), the company stated that its climate commitments remain independently owned and supported by senior governance, including Board-level oversight. We identified greater transparency on policy advocacy and trade association alignment as an area requiring further development, and subsequently shared examples of good practice, including trade association reviews and guidance from InfluenceMap. We also requested further clarity on the link between Barclays' sector decarbonisation targets and the Client Transition Framework. Next steps include following up on small and medium-sized enterprise coverage and monitoring any additional disclosures the company provides.

HSBC Holdings PLC - Climate - Transition Risk

Purpose:

We engaged HSBC Holdings PLC, a global banking and financial services company, as part of Royal London Asset Management's Net Zero Stewardship Programme to understand the rationale behind its revised climate targets, updated fossil-fuel policy, and approach to client transition assessments.

Outcome:

At a meeting in September 2026, HSBC reiterated its commitment to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 and presented the energy transition as a significant commercial opportunity, citing growing demand for renewable energy and improved energy security. The company explained that its revised target range reflects the widening gap between a 1.5 degrees Celsius pathway and the International Energy Agency's announced pledges scenario, while its seven sector-level targets continue to focus on the most emissions-intensive areas of its portfolio. HSBC described how financed emissions are governed through sector-level tolerances, monthly portfolio reviews and formal sustainability execution-risk processes embedded across the business. On fossil fuels, HSBC outlined a consolidated framework designed to improve clarity and consistency, under which prospective and existing clients are now treated alike, with due diligence, activity restrictions and enhanced assessments continuing to apply. Client transition assessments remain central to policy compliance, emissions modelling and credit analysis. We acknowledged the progress made but emphasised the importance of ensuring that target and policy changes remain grounded in climate science and aligned with the company's net-zero commitment. HSBC acknowledged our concerns as a serious matter and committed to continued dialogue as its strategy develops.

Fund Engagement

Engagement outcomes

National Grid PLC - Climate - Transition Risk

Purpose:

We engaged National Grid PLC, a utilities company, as part of Royal London Asset Management's Net Zero Stewardship Programme to assess how the company is managing climate-related risks and opportunities as it undertakes a significant network investment programme to support the energy transition.

Outcome:

National Grid outlined how it has strengthened delivery capabilities through its Strategic Infrastructure business and confirmed that most Tier 1 supply chain requirements have now been secured, reducing execution risk as projects move into delivery. Management acknowledged that emissions linked to capital expenditure and supply chain activity are likely to rise in the near term due to construction activity, while noting continued progress on reducing operational emissions, addressing sulphur hexafluoride (SF6) emissions and electrifying its vehicle fleet. The company also highlighted efforts to reduce embodied carbon through the use of lower-carbon steel and concrete, and confirmed that climate metrics remain embedded within senior leadership remuneration structures. We discussed the challenge of balancing affordability, resilience and decarbonisation, with National Grid arguing that increased network investment is essential to enable renewable energy deployment and manage growing electricity demand, including from data centres. Management noted an increasing policy focus on affordability and energy security alongside decarbonisation objectives. Innovation partnerships were also highlighted as a means of improving system efficiency and managing future demand. Following the meeting, we submitted additional questions to the company and will continue to monitor progress through ongoing dialogue.

Tesco PLC - Labour & Human Rights

Purpose:

We engaged Tesco PLC, a major United Kingdom grocery retailer, to better understand the company's position on an ongoing equal pay claim, including how it assesses pay transparency, structural equity between store and distribution roles, and colleague engagement practices.

Outcome:

Tesco explained that distribution roles typically attract higher pay than store roles due to factors including location constraints, less pleasant working conditions, night shifts, and chilled or frozen environments, all of which require the company to compete harder to attract workers. The company acknowledged that estimating the financial impact of the equal pay litigation is difficult, stating that no provision has been made as its probability assessment is viewed as favourable. Tesco described its pay structure as transparent, with employees able to understand their position within pay bands and colleagues in equivalent roles paid consistently. On the gender dimension, the company framed progress partly around improving visibility of and access to distribution and senior roles, rather than filling quotas. Colleague sentiment is monitored through a \"great place to work\" survey, with Tesco moving towards a more continuous, rolling engagement model tied to employees' joining anniversaries. The company described its relationship with the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers as strong and characterised the union as pragmatic within the retail grocery sector. We noted the seriousness of the issue and will continue to monitor developments as the employment tribunal progresses.

Market commentary

Market overview

Global economic activity remained resilient over the third quarter amid a more challenging backdrop of higher energy prices, rising government bond yields and renewed monetary policy tightening. Despite ongoing conflict in the Middle East and higher energy prices, business surveys and recent GDP figures look consistent with resilient global activity growth, with some indicators showing some improvement in Q3. US growth continued to be supported by robust household spending and a relatively firm labour market.

Oil prices rose over the quarter, ending near $100 per barrel after starting at around $75 per barrel. Increasingly, however, attention shifted to refined products, where price pressures have been even more pronounced over the conflict. Towards the end of the quarter, news broke that US President Trump was contemplating a diesel export ban, adding to European energy price pressure. Given higher energy prices and with indications growing of a strong El Nino event and very dry and hot European summer, worries also grew around the outlook for food prices.

Against a backdrop of intensifying inflationary pressures, major central banks shifted more hawkish over the quarter. The European Central Bank hiked rates again in September, while the US Federal Reserve also delivered its first rate hike since 2023, indicating another hike later in the year in their forecasts. The Bank of England left rates unchanged in both July and September but expressed growing concern about elevated energy prices and signalled an openness to tighten policy later in the year if energy prices don't fall significantly.

Fixed income markets weakened over the period as persistent inflationary concerns and elevated energy prices prompted investors to reassess the path of monetary policy. Government bond yields rose sharply, particularly at shorter maturities, as markets priced a higher path for policy rates, while longer-dated bonds weakened on fiscal concerns and rising issuance. In the UK, the government's Debt Management Office sold £4.25 billion of July 2036 gilts at an average yield of 5.383% at the end of September, the highest 10-year borrowing cost since 1999. Demand for higher yields reflected ongoing inflation concerns and expectations of increased fiscal spending ahead of the forthcoming Autumn Budget. UK monetary policy expectations also shifted over the quarter and markets started pricing in a 25bps rate hike in November, with roughly four increases priced in by the middle of next year.

In the UK, 10-year gilt yields ended September at 5.43% compared to 4.76% at the end of June, with similar moves in the US and euro zone. The sterling investment grade credit market (iBoxx non-gilt index) returned -1.74% over the period under review. Spreads ended the quarter at 0.80% (iBoxx), compared to 0.76% (iBoxx) at the end of June.

Outlook

Several trends have become obvious in 2026. Governments are investing more heavily in strategic priorities such as energy security, technology and defence in response to an increasingly fragmented geopolitical landscape fraught with tensions, particularly the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. At the same time, the development of artificial intelligence is driving a very capital-intensive investment cycle that's supporting higher levels of corporate borrowing and debt issuance – with the sheer scale of this supply adding to the upward pressure on government bonds as investors choose where to invest. Absolute yield levels are therefore higher than seen for some time. With inflation and government spending expected to remain high in the near term, yields could rise further. However, we believe that on a medium-term view, yields are attractive at these levels.

For credit investors, this has meaningful implications. Higher starting yields in the credit markets improve the return potential of fixed income and reinforce its role within balanced portfolios, with investors being compensated for lending capital. This higher level of income also provides a buffer against further government bond market volatility.

We continue to expect swings in government bond interest rates to remain an important driver of returns, with markets continuing to reassess the balance between sticky inflation, slowing growth and the extent to which central banks can ease policy. At a portfolio level, we continue to believe attractive risk-adjusted opportunities can be found through selective new issuance, relative-value analysis and bottom-up credit research rather than broad market beta. In this context, diversification, disciplined position sizing and a continued bias towards secured and collateralised debt remain central to managing downside risk. By focusing on bottom-up analysis, we continue to build buy & maintain portfolios that we believe offer attractive risk / return profiles with above-market yields.

We remain confident that active management can continue to add value in sterling credit. Ongoing credit market commoditisation, driven by price-insensitive buying from annuity providers, passive funds and maturity-focused investors, can create spread dispersion and attractive relative-value opportunities. Against this backdrop, detailed credit research remains critical. We continue to focus on diversification by sector and issuer, secured and collateralised debt, and attractive all-in yields. We believe that less commoditised areas of the market, including secured structures and overlooked issuers, can offer additional yield without a disproportionate increase in credit risk. As a result, credit market inefficiencies remain a valuable source of portfolio income and potential excess returns.

Further Information

Please click on the links below for further information:







Find out more

In an uncertain geopolitical and economic environment, we recognise the importance of keeping our clients updated on our current investment thinking.

Articles, videos, podcasts and webinars giving the latest views of our investment experts can be found in the Our Views section of www.rlam.com, including regular updates from our Fixed Income, Global Equity, Sustainable and Multi Asset teams.

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Risks and Warnings

General risks

The degree of investment risk depends on the fund you choose.

The prices of units can go down as well as up.

The return from your investment is not guaranteed; therefore, you may get back less or more than shown in the illustrations.

You may not get back the amount that you originally invested.

Past performance is not a guide to future return.

Inflation may, over time, reduce the value of your investments in real terms.

There may be a variation in performance between funds with similar objectives owing to the different assets selected.

Funds aiming for relatively high performance can incur greater risk than those adopting a more standard investment approach.

The use of derivatives in pursuit of a fund's objective may cause its risk profile to change and this may be material.

Fixed interest security risk

Fixed interest securities are particularly affected by trends in interest rates and inflation. If interest rates go up, the value of capital may fall, and vice versa. Inflation will also decrease the real value of capital. Unlike the income from a single fixed interest security, the level of income (yield) from a fund is not fixed and may go up and down. Bond yields (and as a consequence bond prices) are determined by market perception as to the appropriate level of yields given the economic background.Key determinants include economic growth prospects, inflation, the government's fiscal position, short-term interest rates and international market comparisons. The returns from bonds are fixed as at the time of purchase. Therefore the fixed coupon payable and the final redemption proceeds are known at the outset. This means that if a bond is held until its redemption date, the total return that could be expected is unaltered from its purchase date, subject to counterparty default (see 'Credit risk' below). However, over the life of a bond, the yield priced by the market (as opposed to actual fixed coupons payable) at any given time will depend on the market environment at that time. Therefore, a bond sold before its redemption date is likely to have a different price to its purchase price and a profit or loss may be incurred.

Credit risk

The value of a fixed interest security will fall in the event of the default or reduced credit rating of the issuer. Generally, the higher the rate of interest, the higher the perceived credit risk of the issuer. This fund may invest a percentage of it's assets in sub-investment grade bonds. Such bonds have characteristics which may result in higher probability of default than investment grade bonds and therefore higher risk.

Overseas markets risk

Funds investing in overseas securities are exposed to, and can hold, currencies other than Sterling. As a result, overseas investments may be affected by the rise and fall in exchange rates.

Derivatives risk for efficient portfolio management

Derivatives may be used by this Fund for the purpose of efficient portfolio management. This restricts the use of derivatives to the reduction of risk and the reduction of cost. Such transactions must be economically appropriate and the exposure fully covered.

Derivatives risk for investment purposes

This fund may undertake transactions in derivatives and forward transactions (both on exchange and over the counter (OTC)). These may include interest rate swaps and interest rate futures for the purposes of meeting the investment objective, protecting the risk to capital, duration and credit management, as well as for hedging. While the discerning use of derivatives can be beneficial, derivatives also involve specific risks. These risks relate specifically to market risk, management risk, credit risk, liquidity risk, the risk of mispricing or improper valuation of derivatives and the risk that derivatives may not correlate perfectly with underlying assets, interest rates and indices. The use of derivative instruments may from time to time alter the economic exposure of the fund causing it to deviate significantly from the performance of the market as a whole. The use of these derivatives will be within the parameters allowed for linked funds by the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority.

Performance to 30 September 2026

Cumulative (%)

	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years
Fund (gross)	(1.57)	0.81	3.30	21.44	(0.07)
Fund (net)	(1.62)	0.70	3.07	20.65	(1.17)

Annualised (%)

3 Years (p.a.)	5 Years (p.a.)
6.68	(0.01)
6.45	(0.23)

Please note that with effect from 1 December 2025 the fund name changed from RLPPC Enhanced Buy and Maintain Credit Fund to RLPPC Climate Aware Buy and Maintain Credit Fund

Year on year performance (%)

	30/09/2025 - 30/09/2026	30/09/2024 - 30/09/2025	30/09/2023 - 30/09/2024	30/09/2022 - 30/09/2023	30/09/2021 - 30/09/2022
Fund (gross)	3.30	4.83	12.15	7.25	(23.28)
Fund (net)	3.07	4.60	11.90	7.02	(23.45)

Past performance is not a guarantee or reliable indicator of future returns. The impact of fees or other charges, including tax, where applicable, can be material on the performance of your investment. The impact of fees reduces your investment.

Source: RLAM as at 30 September 2026. All figures are mid-price to mid-price for the RLPPC Climate Aware Buy and Maintain Credit Fund I Inc GBP share class.

Glossary

Asset allocation

Breakdown of the assets by asset classes. Based on RLAM asset classification scheme.

Credit ratings

Credit ratings are based on RLAM composite ratings which uses a hierarchy of S&P, Moody's and then the Fitch rating.

Credit spread

Credit spread is the difference in yield between two debt securities of the same maturity but different credit quality.

Duration

Measure of sensitivity of a Fixed Income instrument to changes in interest rates, indicating the potential impact of interest rate fluctuations on the value of the investment.

Fund analytics

All figures exclude cash. Credit bonds include non-sterling bonds and CDs where held within the fund or benchmark.
This is applicable to the following sections: fund Asset Allocation, Duration, Yield curve, Sector breakdown, Financial holdings, Credit ratings.

Number of holdings

Total number of unique holdings of the Fund excluding cash, currency and derivatives.

Number of issuers

Number of unique issuers of all assets held by the Fund, excluding cash, currency and derivatives.

Performance

Fund performance is based on close of business prices.

Pricing

The Fund's price will swing to bid or offer to protect existing investors from the costs associated with buying or selling the fund's underlying assets when other investors are entering or leaving the fund. Performance is based on this pricing.

Rating changes - downgrades

Directly held credit bonds downgraded from investment grade to sub-investment grade based on the RLAM composite rating during the quarter.

Rating changes - upgrades

Directly held credit bonds upgraded from sub-investment grade to investment grade based on the RLAM composite rating during the quarter.

Redemption yield

The weighted average rate of discount at which the future obligations of interest and capital payments of each of the fund's holdings equates to its current price, gross of relevant fund management costs and gross of tax.

Rolling 3-year period

A rolling 3-year period is any period of three years, no matter which day you start on.

Sector breakdown

Breakdown of the fixed income assets, excluding derivatives and cash by RLAM's internal industry sector classification scheme. Figures are subject to rounding.