ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE

Supplier due diligence: identity, history and commercial claims

FZ-FICTIONAL-BUS-2026-001 | 2026-04-18

No real client, company record, investigation or achievement is represented. Every identity, address, source and event is invented. Reserved .example domains are not live evidence links.

The decision

A fictional customer is considering a substantial supply agreement with Alderwick Vale Supplies. The question is whether its claimed history, contracting identity and business relationships are consistent with the supplied fictional evidence.

Executive summary

Six findings distinguish documented facts from unresolved claims. The supplied material supports a link between two fictional companies and independently corroborates a delivery claim. The advertised history predates the supplier's recorded incorporation, a quotation uses a different company name, and website wording changes over time. None of these observations establishes wrongdoing. A possible relationship with another website remains unverified. Clarifying the contracting party and the basis of the history claim would help the fictional customer assess the agreement.

Key findings

F1 - Advertised history predates recorded incorporation

F3 - Quotation names a different contracting entity

F5 - One delivery claim is independently corroborated

F6 - A possible website relationship remains unverified

Overall conclusion

Clarify the contracting company and the trading-history claim before signing. One delivery is corroborated, but the separate website connection remains unverified. The evidence does not establish fraud, shared liability or future performance.

Important unresolved questions

- What evidence supports trading before incorporation, and does it refer to a predecessor or personal experience?

- Which company would be the contracting party, and why does the quotation differ from the supplier website?

- Who operates briarhaven-outlet.example? No relationship should be assumed from the shared phrase.

Reading guide

Executive summary / Investigation scope / Findings / Timeline / Relationship diagram / Evidence register / Conclusions and limitations

01 / Investigation scope

1. Does the advertised trading history match the documented company history?

2. Which legal entity appears on the proposed quotation, and how is it connected to the supplier?

3. Which claims are corroborated, and which relationships remain uncertain?

Boundaries and evidence set

Desk research into Alderwick Vale Supplies (fictional identifier FICT-ALDER-01), Briarhaven Trade Services (FICT-BRIAR-02), the trading name Alderwick Supply and two reserved example websites. Illustrative addresses are Unit A and Unit B, Lantern Hollow Yard, Merewick (fictional place): invented places, not contact or registry details. All dates, people, records and events are invented. No live source was searched or real subject assessed. Evidence considered: two invented registry extracts, current and historical website captures, a quotation, a dispatch note, a separately attributed customer receipt and a second website capture. All natural-sounding names are fictional; no real person or business is the subject of this case.

Methodology

1. Index the fictional materials by source, capture date and relevant claim; retain the distinction between a source statement and an established fact.

2. Compare company identifiers, dates, document names and website versions. Check each material observation against its cited exhibits.

3. Map documented relationships separately from possible connections. Compare independent exhibits where available and test innocent alternative explanations.

4. Review the conclusions against the evidence register, record unanswered questions and avoid extending findings beyond the agreed evidence set.

How to read verification

A high-confidence observation is supported by the specified fictional exhibits. It is not a real-world authentication, a guarantee of completeness or a wider conclusion about conduct. Possible connections are kept separate from documented relationships.

02 / Findings 1-3

F1 - Advertised history predates recorded incorporation

The current supplier page says "trading since 2010"; the invented registry extract records incorporation on 8 February 2022. That 12-year difference is a discrepancy in the presentation, not proof that earlier activity did not exist. The history could refer to a predecessor or a director's previous work; neither explanation is documented here.

Evidence: E1, E3

Confidence: High for the date comparison; the origin of the earlier trading claim remains unverified.

F2 - A director links two companies in the supplied records

Rowan Ellbridge is listed in the fictional appointment extracts for both Alderwick Vale Supplies and Briarhaven Trade Services. This establishes a documented shared-director link within the example evidence. It does not show that the companies are interchangeable or that one guarantees the other's obligations.

Evidence: E1, E2

Confidence: High for the recorded appointment link; ownership and operational control were outside scope.

F3 - Quotation names a different contracting entity

Quotation Q-DEMO-17 carries the Alderwick Supply trading name but identifies Briarhaven Trade Services, FICT-BRIAR-02, in its footer. The current supplier website associates that trading name with Alderwick Vale Supplies, FICT-ALDER-01. Both names are documented; which entity would accept the order needs written clarification before agreement.

Evidence: E2, E3, E5

Confidence: High for the wording difference; the intended contractual arrangement is unresolved.

02 / Findings 4-6

F4 - Historical website wording changes the history claim

A fictional snapshot dated 12 May 2023 says "a new supplier established in 2022". The current page captured on 15 April 2026 says "trading since 2010". The wording changed, but the evidence set does not show when or why. A business succession or a revised description of personal experience remains a possible explanation.

Evidence: E3, E4

Confidence: High for the two statements; timing and reason for the change are not established.

F5 - One delivery claim is independently corroborated

The supplier claims delivery of 40 demonstration units on 6 March 2026. A separately supplied fictional customer receipt records the same quantity, date and order reference as the supplier's dispatch note. This supports that particular claim within the invented materials. It does not verify every delivery, ongoing capacity or future performance.

Evidence: E6, E7

Confidence: High for the agreement between two separately attributed exhibits; no wider performance conclusion.

F6 - A possible website relationship remains unverified

A second reserved website, briarhaven-outlet.example, displays the same generic contact phrase as alderwick-supplies.example. No company identifier, named operator or appointment record in this evidence set connects it to either company. Reused wording alone is weak evidence: the proposed connection remains unverified and is excluded from the established relationships.

Evidence: E3, E8

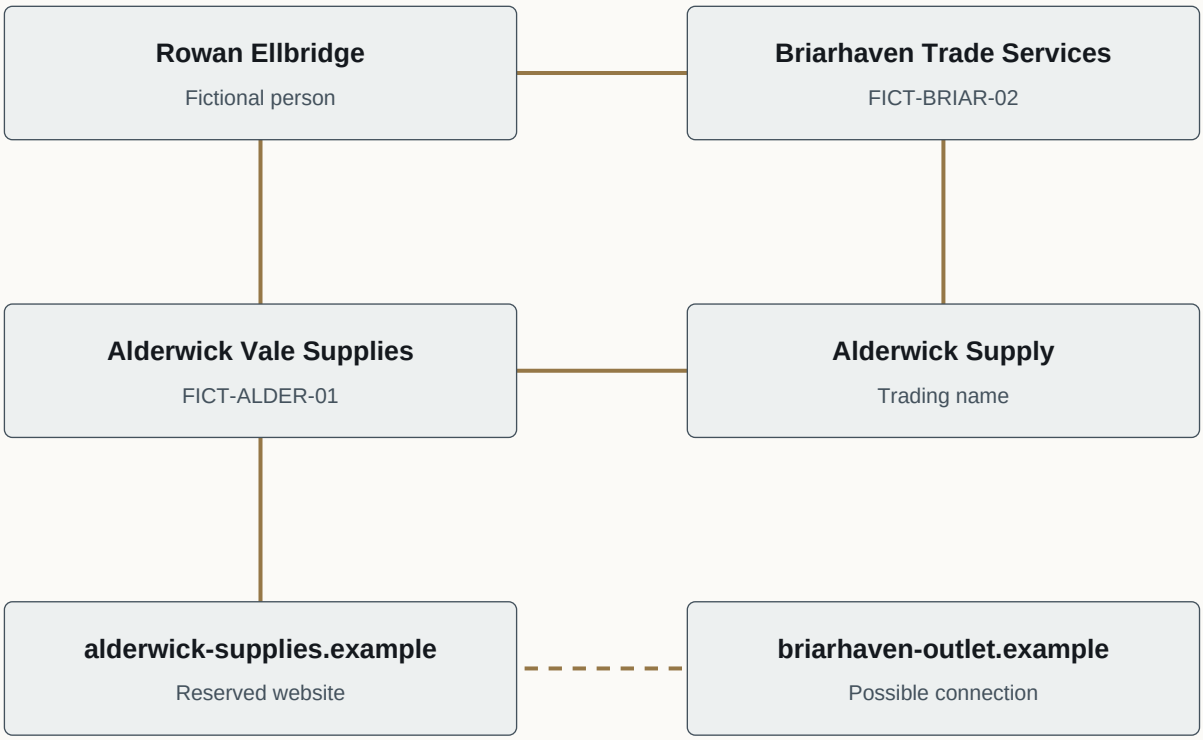
Confidence: Low: a research lead only, not an attribution.

03 / Chronology

2010-01-01	Claim only: the current website says trading began in 2010. The exact start date is not evidenced; 1 January is a timeline marker for the claimed year (E3, F1).
2020-06-20	Briarhaven Trade Services incorporated in the invented extract (E2).
2022-02-08	Alderwick Vale Supplies incorporated; Rowan Ellbridge appointed (E1, F1).
2022-03-03	Rowan Ellbridge appointed to Briarhaven Trade Services, creating the recorded shared-director link (E2, F2).
2023-05-12	Historical snapshot calls the supplier new and established in 2022 (E4, F4).
2026-03-06	Dispatch and separate customer receipt agree on the example delivery (E6-E7, F5).
2026-04-17	Quotation dated 10 April; current and historical materials obtained 15-17 April. Contracting-name discrepancy and weak website lead recorded (E3-E5, E8; F3-F4, F6).
2026-04-18	Illustrative review completed against this closed fictional evidence set.

04 / Relationship map

Solid lines: documented in the fictional materials. Dashed line: an unverified possibility. A recorded relationship does not establish wrongdoing or shared liability.



Rowan Ellbridge > Briarhaven Trade Services: Recorded appointment. Documented (E2).

Rowan Ellbridge > Alderwick Vale Supplies: Recorded appointment. Documented (E1).

Alderwick Vale Supplies > Alderwick Supply: Website associates trading name. Documented (E3).

Briarhaven Trade Services > Alderwick Supply: Named on quotation. Documented (E5).

Alderwick Vale Supplies > alderwick-supplies.example: Named website operator. Documented (E3).

alderwick-supplies.example > briarhaven-outlet.example: Shared phrase only. UNVERIFIED POSSIBILITY (E3, E8).

05 / Evidence register 1-4

Invented exhibits only. No real registry, archive or client record was accessed.

ID	Source	Date obtained	Relevant information	Finding supported	Verification status
E1	Invented registry extract A · FICT-ALDER-01 - Incorporation and appointment history	2026-04-15 (source: 2026-04-14)	Alderwick Vale Supplies: incorporated 8 February 2022; Rowan Ellbridge appointed on that date. Invented registered location: Unit A, Lantern Hollow Yard, Merewick (fictional place).	F1, F2	Compared against the supplied fictional extract; no real registry consulted.
E2	Invented registry extract B · FICT-BRIAR-02 - Second company and shared director	2026-04-15 (source: 2026-04-14)	Briarhaven Trade Services: incorporated 20 June 2020; Rowan Ellbridge appointed 3 March 2022. Invented registered location: Unit B, Lantern Hollow Yard, Merewick (fictional place).	F2, F3	Company identifier and appointment checked within the fictional extract.
E3	Current fictional website capture · alderwick-supplies.example - Current trading-name and history claims	2026-04-15 (source: 2026-04-15)	Claims "trading since 2010", associates Alderwick Supply with Alderwick Vale Supplies and uses the phrase "built around your next order". Local invented capture only; URL is not a live evidence link.	F1, F3, F4, F6	Captured wording compared; claims are not verified by publication alone.
E4	Invented historical snapshot · alderwick-supplies.example · 12 May 2023 - Earlier website description	2026-04-16 (source: 2023-05-12)	Describes "a new supplier established in 2022". This is an invented historical exhibit, not a claim that an archive service holds such a page.	F4	Compared with E3; intervening versions unavailable within scope.

05 / Evidence register 5-8

Invented exhibits only. No real registry, archive or client record was accessed.

ID	Source	Date obtained	Relevant information	Finding supported	Verification status
E5	Fictional quotation Q-DEMO-17 · dated 10 April 2026 - Contracting-name discrepancy	2026-04-16 (source: 2026-04-10)	Alderwick Supply heading; footer names Briarhaven Trade Services and FICT-BRIAR-02. Proposed purchase has not been accepted in this scenario.	F3	Name and identifier compared with E2 and E3; contract interpretation unresolved.
E6	Fictional supplier dispatch note D-DEMO-40 - Supplier delivery claim	2026-04-16 (source: 2026-03-06)	Records 40 demonstration units dispatched under order DEMO-ORDER-9 for delivery on 6 March 2026.	F5	Supplier statement corroborated in the separately attributed E7 exhibit.
E7	Fictional customer receipt R-DEMO-40 - Separately attributed delivery receipt	2026-04-17 (source: 2026-03-06)	Separately attributed customer record confirms receipt of 40 demonstration units on 6 March 2026 under DEMO-ORDER-9.	F5	Independent corroboration within the fictional scenario only.
E8	Fictional website capture · briarhaven-outlet.example - Unverified website connection	2026-04-17 (source: 2026-04-17)	Repeats "built around your next order"; supplies no company identifier or named operator linking it to the examined companies.	F6	Wording observed; relationship unverified.

06 / Assessment and review

Unresolved questions

- What evidence supports trading before incorporation, and does it refer to a predecessor or personal experience?

- Which company would be the contracting party, and why does the quotation differ from the supplier website?

- Who operates briarhaven-outlet.example? No relationship should be assumed from the shared phrase.

Conclusions

The fictional customer has specific points to clarify before signing: contracting identity and the basis of the history claim. The documented shared director helps explain a connection but does not settle those questions.

The delivery claim is supported for one order. The other website is an unverified lead. Neither a discrepancy nor missing evidence justifies an allegation of fraud.

A proportionate next step would be to request a corrected or clarified quotation and documentary support for the history claim, then agree any further research separately.

Limitations

- All evidence is invented for demonstration; verification describes comparisons within that fictional evidence set, not real-world authentication.

- No private accounts, bank records, site visits, interviews, credit assessment, legal advice or live registry searches are included.

- A closed evidence set and gaps between website snapshots limit conclusions. Sources may contain errors; no inference of wrongdoing or future performance is warranted.

Investigator review

Illustrative investigator-review stage: each finding has been checked against its listed exhibits; contrary and positive evidence, alternative explanations and unresolved attribution are recorded. This demonstrates the intended reporting method and does not represent completed client work or a professional accreditation.