

SAMPLE REPORT

Digital Trust Audit Report

Northgate Communications Ltd · Company number 08814432 (fictional) · Assessed 3 October 2026 · Leeds · Telecoms reseller

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR

Digital Trust Audit Ltd

Assessed and signed against the published standard

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Requested through OD3X Growth, which receives a copy with the requester's agreement

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**59****Weak · 59 of 100**

Northgate sells hosted voice, connectivity and mobile to businesses across West Yorkshire and answers its phone. To a buyer checking it from outside it is three companies, one of which has not updated its privacy notice since 2019 and none of which protects the email it sends.

Fifteen findings passed. The failures are in the gaps between suppliers: the web agency, the mail provider, the registrar and the accountant each did their part and nobody has looked across them.

Four items could not be confirmed from outside. They are marked, lifted out of the score, and listed on the last page with what would settle each one.

15

Passed

11

Needs a decision

6

Weak

4

Failed

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Questions on the findings, corrections, the items that could not be confirmed, and re-assessment

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Reading the report with you, and the work that follows if you want it

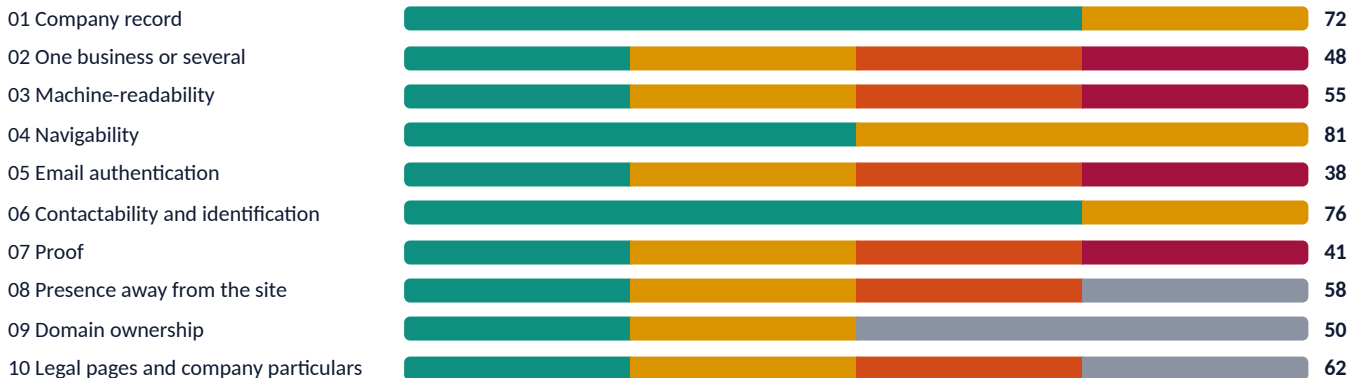
What this is: a scored record of what anyone outside the business can see and check, assessed against Digital Trust Audit Ltd's published standard. **What it is not:** a security test, a fix list, or an opinion about the people who run the business. Nothing was probed and nothing touched the company's systems. The score may fall at the next assessment as evidence improves; that is the method working.

Ten areas, scored separately

Each area is scored on its own so the reader can see where the damage is. Findings marked "could not be confirmed" are shown but carry no weight in any score.



What each area's findings are made of



Section headings are published. The individual checks inside them are not: a test known in advance is a test prepared for, and the point of the assessment is to see what a stranger sees.

Areas 01–03



AREA 01 Workable Company record

The register and the website mostly agree; one director named on the site has resigned.

✓ **Passed** Companies House shows an active company, incorporated 2009, accounts up to date

Evidence: Confirmation statement filed 14 March 2026; accounts to 31 December 2025 filed 9 June 2026

✓ **Passed** The registered name and number appear in the website footer and match the register

Evidence: Footer line and company record agree exactly

◆ **Needs a decision** A director named on the About page resigned from the company in 2024

Evidence: Register: termination of appointment filed 2 May 2024; About page still lists him as Operations Director

✓ **Passed** The SIC code describes the business the website describes

Evidence: 61900, Other telecommunications activities



AREA 02 Weak One business or several

Three names in public point at the same company, and only one of them is explained anywhere.

▲ **Weak** The business trades under three names: Northgate Communications, Northgate Comms and NGC Voice

Evidence: Website header, Google Business Profile and invoice template seen in a published case study each use a different name

✗ **Failed** NGC Voice appears on LinkedIn as a separate company page with no link to the main company

Evidence: LinkedIn company page 2,100 followers, 14 employees listed, About text names no legal entity

◆ **Needs a decision** The domain ngcvoice.co.uk resolves to the main site without redirecting

Evidence: Both hostnames return 200 with identical content

✓ **Passed** No other UK company holds a confusable name

Evidence: Companies House name search returns no near match



AREA 03 Weak Machine-readability

A person can read the site. Most machines get a header, a footer and very little in between.

▲ **Weak** Twelve of twenty pages render their main content with JavaScript; the HTML source carries only the shell

Evidence: Fetched with scripts disabled: service pages return navigation and footer only

✗ **Failed** No structured data on any page

Evidence: No JSON-LD or microdata found on the twenty indexable pages

◆ **Needs a decision** Seventeen images have no alt text, including the product diagrams

Evidence: Image audit across all indexable pages

✓ **Passed** Page titles and descriptions are present and distinct on every indexable page

Evidence: Twenty pages, twenty unique titles

Areas 04–06



AREA 04 Strong Navigability

Links work and pages exist. Two calls to action lead nowhere useful.

✓ **Passed** Every link in the primary navigation returns a working page

Evidence: Forty-one internal links checked, zero broken

◆ **Needs a decision** The "Get a quote" button on the hosted voice page opens a mailto with no subject or address shown

Evidence: Button links to a mailto: with an empty subject

✓ **Passed** The 404 page exists and carries navigation

Evidence: Tested with three invented URLs

◆ **Needs a decision** The Careers link goes to a page that has been empty since 2023

Evidence: Page carries a heading and no content; last-modified header 11 August 2023



AREA 05 Exposed Email authentication

Mail in the company's name is sent by five platforms, and nobody would hear if a sixth started.

✗ **Failed** No DMARC record is published

Evidence: DNS query for _dmarc.northgatecomms.co.uk returns no TXT record

▲ **Weak** SPF authorises five sending platforms, including one marketing tool no longer in use

Evidence: SPF record lists five include: mechanisms; one platform confirmed unused by the request sender

◆ **Needs a decision** DKIM is present for the mailbox provider and absent for the CRM and the billing platform

Evidence: DKIM selectors found for one platform; invoices and CRM mail observed unsigned

✓ **Passed** The request email arrived from the company domain and passed SPF

Evidence: Headers of the request received 29 September 2026



AREA 06 Workable Contactability and identification

The phone is answered. The trading address and the registered office are two different buildings and the site says nothing about either.

✓ **Passed** The published number was answered by a person within four rings, twice

Evidence: Calls placed 10:40 and 15:10 on 30 September 2026

✓ **Passed** A monitored email address is published as plain text

Evidence: hello@ address present in footer, reply received within one working day

◆ **Needs a decision** The Leeds office address on the site is not the registered office, and the site does not say which is which

Evidence: Site: Wellington Street, Leeds. Register: accountant's address in Harrogate

✓ **Passed** A named person with a role is reachable from the Contact page

Evidence: Sales director named with direct line

Areas 07–09



AREA 07 Exposed **Proof**

Six claims, two of them checkable from outside.

✗ Failed "Trusted by over 400 UK businesses" cannot be checked and no basis is given

Evidence: Homepage hero; no client list, count method or date

▲ Weak Four testimonials carry a first name only and no company

Evidence: Testimonial carousel on the homepage

✓ Passed Two case studies name the client and the person, and both companies exist on the register

Evidence: Case studies for a Leeds law firm and a Bradford logistics company

◆ Needs a decision Partner badges for two wholesalers are shown; one partnership could be confirmed on the wholesaler's partner locator

Evidence: One wholesaler lists Northgate; the other's locator does not



AREA 08 Weak **Presence away from the site**

The listings agree on the phone number and disagree on everything else.

◆ Needs a decision Google Business Profile shows a different opening hours set and the NGC Voice name

Evidence: Profile checked 30 September 2026

▲ Weak Three directory listings carry a previous address in Morley

Evidence: Yell, Cylex and FreeIndex entries

✓ Passed The two people named on the site have LinkedIn profiles that name the company

Evidence: Both profiles checked, roles consistent

? Could not be confirmed Whether the company holds a Trustpilot or Google review profile under its own control

Evidence: Profiles exist but ownership could not be established from outside



AREA 09 Weak **Domain ownership**

The domains renew on time. Who can log in to the account is the open question.

✓ Passed Both domains are registered to the company, not to an individual or a web agency

Evidence: RDAP registrant organisation matches the legal name

? Could not be confirmed Who holds the registrar login and whether two-factor authentication is set

Evidence: Not visible from outside; asked in the request table

◆ Needs a decision The main domain expires in 71 days and auto-renewal status is unknown

Evidence: RDAP expiry date 13 December 2026

? Could not be confirmed Whether anyone receives the registrar's renewal and security notices

Evidence: Not visible from outside; asked in the request table

Areas 10



AREA 10 Weak Legal pages and company particulars

The pages exist. The privacy notice describes a business from 2019.

✓ Passed Privacy, cookie and terms pages are present and linked from every page

Evidence: Footer links on all twenty pages

▲ Weak The privacy notice names a CRM the company stopped using and omits the two platforms that now send its mail
Evidence: Notice last updated January 2019; platforms identified from mail headers and the SPF record

◆ Needs a decision The cookie notice refers to a settings control that does not exist on the site

Evidence: No cookie settings control found; banner offers accept only

? Could not be confirmed Whether the ICO registration shown is current

Evidence: ICO register lookup returned a registration under a previous trading name; renewal status not shown

Forty findings in total: fifteen passed, eleven need a decision, six are weak, four failed and four could not be confirmed from outside. The four unconfirmed items appear on the next page with what would settle each one. The report carries no fix list; what to do about these findings, and in what order, is a conversation with whoever does the work, and Digital Trust Audit Ltd takes no part in it.

The items only the business can settle

Everything in this report came from outside. These are the things that could not be established that way. Each is lifted out of the score; each has a column saying what it would settle and who usually holds the answer.

What we need	What it settles	Who usually holds it
Who can log in to the domain registrar account, and whether two-factor authentication is on	Area 9: domain ownership, and whether a renewal can quietly fail	The owner, or whoever set the site up
Whether the main domain is set to auto-renew, and which card it renews on	Area 9: the 13 December expiry	Finance, or the registrar account holder
The basis for "over 400 UK businesses"	Area 7: whether the headline claim can stand	Sales or the owner
Whether the former Operations Director should still appear on the site	Area 1: the register disagrees with the About page	The owner
Which platforms send email in the company's name today	Area 5: what SPF should authorise and what DMARC will report	IT, marketing and finance together
Which of the three trading names the business wants to be known by	Area 2: everything else follows from this	The owner
The current ICO registration number	Area 10: whether the registration shown is live	Finance or the owner
Who controls the Google Business Profile, Trustpilot and Google review accounts	Area 8: whether the listings can be corrected	Marketing, or nobody

In most assessments two or three of these come back as "we are not sure who has that", and the registrar account is the usual one. That is not a gap in the evidence. It is the finding, and it is the one that costs the most to discover during a sale, an outage, or a renewal that quietly did not happen.

Re-assessment. A re-assessment after changes is a new, dated assessment, never an amendment to this one. The score is allowed to fall as evidence improves. Request it at digitaltrustaudit.co.uk or by reply to audit@digitaltrustaudit.co.uk.

Who sees this report. Digital Trust Audit Ltd holds it. OD3X Growth, which introduced the assessment, receives a copy with the requester's agreement recorded at the time of the request, so that it can offer the work that follows. Digital Trust Audit Ltd does not sell that work, does not recommend who should do it, and takes no commission from whoever does. Nobody else sees it, and reports are never published, named or anonymised.

This is a sample. The company is fictional and every finding is illustrative.