

Legacy Estate Assessment & Modernisation Roadmap

I spend two to three weeks in your codebase, read-only, and give you a written report: what you've actually got, where the risk sits, and a sensible order for dealing with it. Fixed price, so you know the cost before we start. The report is yours whether or not you ever engage anyone again, me included.

WHO IT IS FOR

CTOs and heads of engineering with an estate that is ten or fifteen years old and getting harder to change. Usually there is a symptom you can feel: releases have slowed to a crawl, one developer holds all the knowledge, or modernisation sits on the risk register with nobody sure how to start. Most estates I see are .NET, but the method does not care about the language, and real estates are mixed anyway; the sample report has RPG/400, VB6 and C# in the same building, which is normal.

WHAT YOU GET

- An inventory of every system: dependencies, who actually understands each one, what is out of support. You would be surprised how rarely this exists.
- A modernisation roadmap with phased options and rough effort bands, written so a board can make a decision from it without a translator.
- An honest view on AI-assisted modernisation. Where it will genuinely help on your estate, where it will not, and how to use it without your code leaving the building. I use these tools every day; I also know where they bite.
- A quick-wins list your own team can act on straight away, whatever you decide about the bigger questions.
- The written report, then a 90-minute walkthrough with your leadership team.

HOW IT RUNS

WEEK 1 – DISCOVERY

NDA, read-only access, automated inventory over the source, and three hour-long conversations with the right people.

WEEK 2 – ANALYSIS

Risk map and dependency graph. AI tooling tried against a copy of your code. Roadmap options drafted, then sanity-checked with your lead engineer.

WEEK 3 – REPORT

The written report, the walkthrough, and the quick wins handed over as tickets your team can pick up.

WHAT IT NEEDS FROM YOU

- Read-only access to source control and a copy of the database
- Three stakeholder interviews, roughly three hours of your team's time in total
- An architecture diagram if you have one. If you don't, that tells me something useful too

WHY FIXED PRICE

- You know the cost up front, and it ends when it ends
- Read-only, so there is nothing for me to break
- The report stands on its own; no dependency on keeping me around
- Fixed scope, fixed fee, a deliverable at the end: a clean outside-IR35 engagement

Who is doing the work. Me, Darren Bowles. Twenty-five years of legacy migrations across banking, wealth management, healthtech, property and sports data, starting with RPG/400 estates and mainframe logic extraction. Recent work includes modernisation for a national property platform and a sports analytics firm through its acquisition by a FTSE 100 operator.

On the AI question. Agentic coding tools are genuinely good on legacy code now, and unsafe without someone who understands legacy risk driving them. The assessment tells you where they will pay off in your estate, where they won't, and what guardrails fit your security posture, including locally hosted models where code cannot leave the building.