

VMWARE MODERNISATION ASSESSMENT

VMware Modernisation Example Assessment Report

A reasoned platform direction, material conditions and a prioritised route forward for Northstar Manufacturing Group Ltd, an example organisation.

Control	Value
Document	EXAMPLE-VMA-001
Version	1.0
Issued	24 August 2026
Classification	Public example

Document control

Field	Value
Organisation	Northstar Manufacturing Group Ltd
Reference	EXAMPLE-VMA-001
Evidence cut-off	18 August 2026
Decision	Renew, upgrade, consolidate or move the current VMware estate
Status	Example assessment report
Distribution	Unrestricted

Contents

Section	
1	Executive decision and immediate priorities
2	Scope, estate and evidence position
3	Material findings
4	Target direction and options considered
5	Workload direction and migration readiness
6	Prioritised modernisation roadmap
7	Limitations, sources and next decision

PUBLIC EXAMPLE

The organisation, names and estate records in this report are invented. The document shows the form of the client decision output; internal working records, assessment logic and quality-control material are not included.

1. Executive decision and immediate priorities

RECOMMENDED DIRECTION - MODERATE CONFIDENCE

Retain and upgrade the core VMware platform for workloads that still depend on its current availability and support model; validate consolidation using representative performance evidence; move a bounded group of low-dependency services to Azure; replatform four applications and retire three. Do not commit to a full-estate migration until application support, target recovery and operating ownership have been validated.

Why this direction

- Most critical services have current VMware dependencies that make an immediate platform exit unnecessarily disruptive.
- Four ESXi 7 hosts require near-term treatment because vSphere 7 general support ended on 2 October 2025.
- Nine low-dependency services have credible Azure routes once identity, network and backup prerequisites are completed.
- Performance history is incomplete, so a physical-host reduction must remain a validation question rather than a committed saving.

What leadership should decide

Decision	Reason	Owner and timing
Approve a mixed target state rather than a single-platform programme.	Application constraints and transition risk differ materially across the estate.	CIO - now
Fund the vSphere 7 remediation and 90-day capacity evidence work.	These actions reduce support exposure and establish a safe consolidation limit.	Infrastructure Director - 30 days
Authorise a two-service Azure pilot after prerequisites are evidenced.	The pilot should resolve operating, recovery and migration assumptions before scale-up.	Architecture Board - 60 days

2. Scope, estate and evidence position

The assessment covers the UK production and non-production VMware estate and the application groups that depend on it. It is a read-only decision assessment; no production change, migration execution or licence-compliance opinion is included.

Estate baseline

Measure	Position	Reconciliation note
Sites / vCenters	2 / 2	Both UK sites and administrative boundaries reconciled.
Clusters / physical hosts	4 / 20	One four-host cluster remains on ESXi 7.0 U3.
VMs	286 total	258 powered on; templates and powered-off workloads remain visible.
Application/service groups	36	Five critical, eight high, sixteen medium and seven low.
Specialist components	vSAN	One vSAN cluster; NSX, VCF and Horizon are outside scope.

Evidence position

Evidence area	Position	Material effect
Platform inventory	Reconciled	Sufficient for estate and lifecycle conclusions.
Application ownership	32 of 36 confirmed	Four groups require owner confirmation before disposition is approved.
Performance history	Partial	Six weeks available; 90 days required before consolidation is committed.
Commercial records	Customer supplied	Useful for scenario discussion, not independently validated.
Recovery architecture	Current state only	Target backup and recovery design remains a decision prerequisite.

MATERIAL LIMITATION

The estate baseline supports a platform direction. It does not yet support a final physical-host count or production migration schedule.

3. Material findings

OVERALL POSITION

The current platform remains serviceable, but support exposure, uneven lifecycle management, incomplete dependency ownership and insufficient performance history constrain the next commitment.

Ref	Priority	Condition	Consequence and proportionate action
F-01	High	Four production hosts remain on ESXi 7.0 U3.	General support has ended. Confirm hardware compatibility and complete an upgrade or controlled retirement plan.
F-02	High	Five critical services rely on shared identity, DNS and storage components without an approved transition sequence.	A broad migration could create hidden ordering risk. Validate dependency ownership before wave approval.
F-03	Medium	Only six weeks of representative performance history were supplied.	No dependable consolidation limit or target sizing can be committed. Collect and review 90 days of evidence.
F-04	Medium	Target backup, immutability and recovery responsibilities are not agreed for Azure workloads.	Complete the target recovery design and validation plan before the pilot moves production data.
F-05	Advisory	Three application groups are agreed retirement candidates but have no decommission owner.	Assign data-retention, dependency-removal and configuration-record actions.

What is not a finding

- A customer renewal quotation is an input to scenario discussion, not evidence of licence non-compliance.
- A powered-off VM is not automatically redundant; ownership and retention still require confirmation.
- A target platform is not preferable merely because it is newer or has a lower headline price.

4. Target direction and options considered

MIXED TARGET STATE

Use the retained VMware estate as a controlled transition platform, modernise selected applications where this reduces dependency or lifecycle risk, and move only those services whose compatibility, recovery and operating requirements are understood.

Option	Role in direction	Material conditions
Retain and upgrade VMware	Selected	Required for critical services with current platform dependencies; lifecycle remediation and operating ownership must be funded.
Consolidate VMware	Validate	Potentially credible, but the host limit depends on 90-day demand, growth and failure-domain evidence.
Microsoft Azure	Selected for a bounded group	Landing, identity, network, backup, recovery and cost ownership must be complete before production migration.
Azure Local	Deferred	No current requirement justifies the hardware and operational model until the edge/data-residency case is defined.
Alternative virtualisation	Not selected now	Application/vendor support and operational capability are insufficiently evidenced for critical workloads.
Replatform / replace / retire	Selected where justified	Use application-level decisions; do not force every service through an infrastructure-only move.

Validation before commitment

- Confirm vendor support for two legacy application appliances on the retained platform.
- Complete an Azure pilot using two representative low-dependency services.
- Prove backup, restore, monitoring, identity and operational acceptance in the target design.
- Reconcile 90-day demand, growth and failure-domain requirements before approving host consolidation.

5. Workload direction and migration readiness

Workloads are grouped at application or service level. The proposed direction is conditional where ownership, compatibility, dependency or target-operating evidence could reverse the decision.

Disposition summary

Direction	Groups	Current readiness	What must happen next
Retain / upgrade	20	Conditionally ready	Treat vSphere 7 exposure; confirm appliance vendor support and retained-platform roadmap.
Rehost to Azure	9	Not ready	Complete landing, network, recovery and operating prerequisites; run the two-service pilot.
Replatform	4	Not assessed	Obtain application design, data-migration and supplier validation.
Retire	3	Conditionally ready	Confirm owner, data retention, dependency removal and decommission evidence.

Representative service decisions

Service group	Direction	Confidence	Principal condition
Order management	Retain / upgrade	High	Vendor support and recovery route align with the retained platform.
Document services	Azure pilot	Moderate	Validate identity, throughput, backup and representative business acceptance.
Legacy reporting	Replatform	Low	Data lineage and supplier support must be established before commitment.
Archive utility	Retire	Moderate	Legal retention and downstream export dependency require owner approval.

EXECUTION BOUNDARY

This assessment defines readiness and decision conditions. Detailed design, migration runbooks, production change, rollback and business validation require separate engineering authority.

6. Prioritised modernisation roadmap

Horizon	Outcome	Priority actions	Decision gate
0-30 days	Remove immediate uncertainty	Approve mixed direction; assign four unresolved application owners; confirm hardware compatibility; start 90-day performance collection; define target recovery ownership.	Funding and ownership
30-90 days	Validate the chosen route	Remediate or retire vSphere 7 hosts; complete two-service Azure pilot; validate backup, restore, monitoring and support; confirm consolidation boundary.	Pilot and capacity review
3-12 months	Deliver controlled change	Execute approved workload waves; replatform selected services; consolidate only to the evidenced limit; decommission cleanly; update operating and recovery records.	Wave go / no-go
After material change	Re-establish assurance	Complete post-change service acceptance and commission DR Assurance where recovery confidence requires execution evidence.	Operational acceptance

Programme controls that must remain visible

- Each wave keeps application components, dependencies, owner, outage, rollback and validation together.
- Shared services move before dependants unless a documented transition design supports another order.
- A pilot resolves material uncertainty; it is not a ceremonial first migration.
- No production move proceeds while a material compatibility, access, recovery or business-validation blocker remains open.

FIRST OWNED ACTION

The Infrastructure Director should convene the platform, application, network, security, backup and commercial owners to approve the 0-30 day actions and evidence route.

7. Limitations, sources and next decision

Material limitations

- Performance history covers six weeks rather than the 90 days required for a dependable consolidation boundary.
- Four application groups do not yet have confirmed accountable owners.
- Customer quotations and entitlement records were not independently certified or interpreted as contracts.
- The target Azure recovery design and representative restore evidence do not yet exist.
- The assessment does not prove recoverability or authorise production migration, upgrade or failover activity.

Source register

Source	Date / status	Use and limitation
Read-only VMware inventory	14 August 2026	Estate baseline and version position; point-in-time configuration only.
Architecture and operations records	12-18 August 2026	Current platform and ownership; target design not yet approved.
Application-owner workshops	10-17 August 2026	Grouping and constraints; four owners unresolved.
Broadcom KB 415405	Retrieved 24 August 2026	vSphere 7 general support date. https://knowledge.broadcom.com/external/article/415405/end-of-general-support-for-vsphere
Customer commercial records	Customer supplied	Scenario context only; no legal, contractual or compliance conclusion.

NEXT DECISION

Approve the mixed target direction and the 90-day validation programme. Do not approve a final host count or full migration programme until the performance, application-support and target-recovery conditions have been reviewed.

Report prepared by Cygnus Tech Consulting Ltd

Independent infrastructure assessment and modernisation advice for UK organisations.