VERIGATE

VERITAS VERUM

FICTIONAL CASE STUDY

VERIFY / DIGITAL AUTHENTICITY INVESTIGATIONS

When the picture tells a *different story.*

A worked example of how a disputed property image can be assessed using provenance, file information, visual examination and corroboration.

95%

ILLUSTRATIVE ASSESSMENT
VERY HIGH CONFIDENCE OF AI-GENERATED ORIGIN

A hypothetical analyst estimate, not a validated statistical test. The case facts and records are simulated for demonstration.

01 / EXECUTIVE FINDINGS

What we established.

In this **fictional training case**, a property advertiser supplied a striking photograph presented as a genuine view of a holiday accommodation. The example investigation examined the image itself and, critically, how it had been made and published.

95%
ILLUSTRATIVE ANALYST CONFIDENCE ONLY

ASSESSMENT: VERY HIGH CONFIDENCE

Within the hypothetical evidence set, the image is assessed as **AI-generated or substantially AI-composited**, rather than a straightforward camera-captured depiction of the claimed property.

Why that conclusion?

01 / SOURCE TRAIL

A matching hypothetical generation record links the displayed image to an export produced by a synthetic-imagery workflow.

02 / FILE CLUES

Simulated file information contains an export identifier and generation-workflow marker—not ordinary camera capture details.

03 / VISUAL REVIEW

Reconstructed examples show reflection, repetition and perspective issues requiring further source corroboration.

What matters most: No single peculiar reflection or missing EXIF field proves AI generation. The decisive feature in this example is the **corroborated origin record**, with visual features providing supporting context.

Decision-useful outcome.

The image should not be relied upon as an unaltered photograph of the advertised accommodation. The hypothetical client could request authentic photographs, verify the listing independently and preserve the original source and communication records before making a payment or entering an agreement.

Transparency: This is a marketing demonstration with invented case parties, source records, metadata fields and analyst scoring. The cover photo is illustrative only. It is not a completed real investigation, evidence about the pictured property, or a court-submittable case report.

02 / SCOPE AND EVIDENCE HANDLING

A clear question. A controlled process.

Illustrative instruction: Determine whether the primary property-listing image is reasonably attributable to an authentic camera capture or was generated/composited using AI, and explain the basis for that assessment.

Reference: VV-DEMO-084 | Case type: Digital image authenticity | Material: JPEG + publication record

Evidence register — simulated entries

ID	Item / acquisition	Purpose and handling
EX-01	Advertiser's listing image, *Listing_084_Final.jpg*	Retained as a read-only working copy; an independent cryptographic fingerprint would be calculated and recorded.
EX-02	Page capture, URL and dated notes	Shows how the image was represented to viewers and what authenticity claim was actually made.
EX-03	Illustrative embedded metadata extract	Documents software/export identifiers. Must be compared with the original file and validated independently.
EX-04	Illustrative creator-side export manifest	In this fictional case, provides a matching render identifier and describes AI-generated output.
EX-05	Visual-review notes and annotated figure	Records observations separately from conclusions, including viable non-AI explanations.

Method followed in the example

01 **Preserve and record supplied material**

02 **Inspect file structure and origin data**

03 **Check visual and contextual consistency**

04 **Weigh corroboration and alternatives**

For real matters, the case log would additionally include operator details, collection timestamps and time zone, exact filenames, SHA-256 hashes, acquisition methods, tool versions, examination notes, and a record of every transformation applied to working copies.

Separation of exhibits: The report's diagrams and marketing photographs are not EX-01. In an actual instruction, every displayed crop and annotation would be traceable to the unaltered parent file and its documented acquisition record.

03 / FILE INFORMATION AND ORIGIN

The trace that changed the investigation.

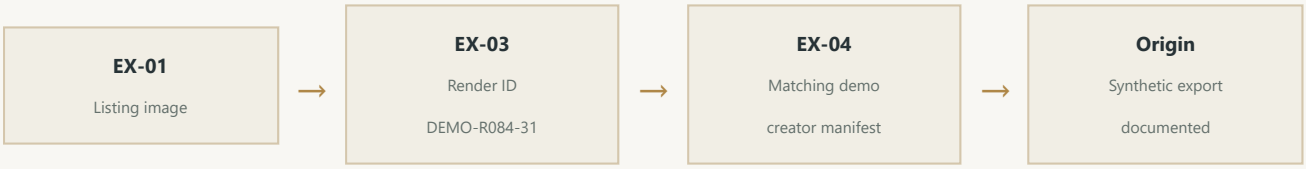
The initial concern arose from unusual features around glazing and perspective. Rather than infer AI generation from appearance alone, the fictional examiner pursued the image's **original export and publishing trail**.

Simulated metadata extract

```
EX-03 / ILLUSTRATIVE METADATA — NOT A REAL EXTRACTION
File name         Listing_084_Final.jpg
Dimensions        2048 × 1365 pixels
Export software   Synthetic Image Workbench (fictional)
Workflow tag      text-to-image / composite
Render identifier DEMO-R084-31
Capture camera    not recorded
Lens/exposure     not recorded
Source record     demo_manifest_R084.json
```

Interpretation: Missing camera EXIF by itself is weak evidence: authentic photographs may lose metadata through editing or sharing. The simulated export software and render ID are more relevant only if they can be authenticated against an independent source record.

Source-trail corroboration



SIMULATED CREATOR-SIDE RECORD / EX-04

> Render DEMO-R084-31 | Output type: generated property visualisation | Scene description: lakeside accommodation | Status: approved for illustrative publication | Original photographic capture: none asserted.

Why this mattered: In the hypothetical file set, the render ID aligned with the supplied creator record, supporting AI-origin attribution more strongly than appearance alone. In a real case, the examiner would need to authenticate who supplied that record, verify its integrity and test the file-to-record association.

04 / VISUAL EXAMINATION

From a small anomaly to a bigger question.

In the fictional case narrative, suspicious reflected details prompted a wider assessment of the file's origin. The diagram below shows the **three classes of areas** that a real examiner might inspect in a property image.

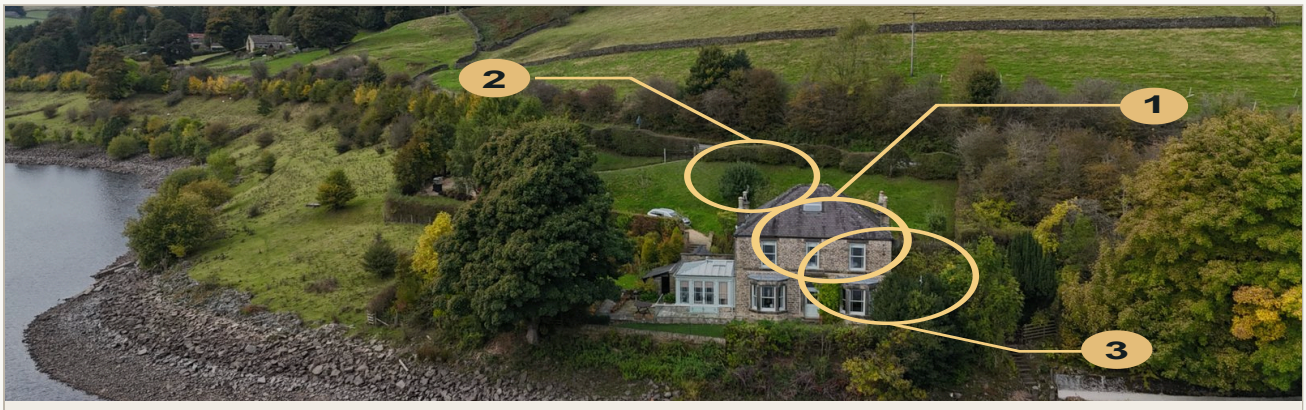


FIGURE 01 / ILLUSTRATIVE INSPECTION MAP
Background photograph and numbered markers illustrate where reviews might focus. **The markings do not establish that the pictured property image is fake or AI-generated.**

1 WINDOW REFLECTIONS

The fictional examiner records a mismatch between apparent interior geometry and reflected features. Cross-checks ask whether glazing shape, lighting or processing could explain it.

2 REPEATING PATTERNS

Recurrent or warped textures could suggest synthesis or compositing, but ordinary duplication or compression can also create suspicious-looking repetitions.

3 ARCHITECTURAL GEOMETRY

Inconsistent alignment of frames, edges and perspective may be relevant. Reproducible measurements would be recorded and alternative camera explanations considered.

4 FOLLOW-UP SOURCE CHECK

These questions lead to the original file, other photographs, listing history and creator-side records. The hypothetical source trail supplies the strongest support.

Evidence discipline: Real annotations would cite exact crop coordinates, parent-exhibit hashes and the image-processing steps applied to the examination copy. A visual anomaly is a lead—not automatically a forensic conclusion.

05 / ASSESSMENT AND PRACTICAL OUTCOME

A conclusion you can actually use.

In the stipulated fictional scenario, independent elements of the source narrative align: the image carries a simulated synthetic-export reference, the creator-side demonstrator record matches it, and visual concerns are consistent with the need for origin verification.

ILLUSTRATIVE FINDING / VV-DEMO-084

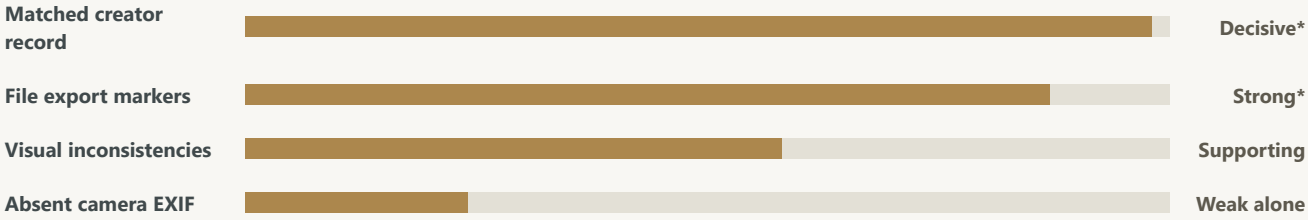
Very high confidence of AI-generated origin.

The hypothetical image should not be presented or relied upon as an unaltered camera photograph of the advertised location.

95%

Example analyst assessment only.
Not a calibrated probability, model score,
or finding from a real evidential examination.

Weight of evidence in this scenario



*Dependent on authenticating the source records. Bars are qualitative illustrations of relative evidential weight, not mathematically calculated likelihood contributions.

Confidence is an opinion, not a machine output. The 95% is a worked example of high analyst confidence under assumed evidence. An actual numerical probability would require a defensible calibration method; Verigate would explain the basis and uncertainty instead of presenting arbitrary precision.

06 / REPORTING WITH PURPOSE

Readable by anyone. Traceable by professionals.

An effective report should show the client exactly what was examined, why each step was taken, what the evidence supports and what remains unresolved. It should be accessible without concealing necessary technical details.

COMPETING EXPLANATIONS

Image editing, recompression, metadata loss or labelling errors may account for individual anomalies. The hypothetical matching production record makes a synthetic-origin explanation substantially stronger, provided that record can be authenticated.

FOR FORMAL OR LEGAL REVIEW

Real matters require clear instructions, examiner identity, evidence continuity, repeatable methods, relevant expertise, disclosed limitations and compliance with any applicable legal rules. This demonstration is not legal evidence.

What a properly documented assignment includes

Component	What the client can expect
Question & scope	The precise issue being assessed, material included and work excluded.
Evidence register	Source information, filenames, acquisition history and integrity records where applicable.
Examiner's method	Tools and versions where relevant, observations, comparison sources and reproducible steps.
Reasoned opinion	Converging findings, reasonable alternatives, confidence and relevant uncertainty.
Actionable next steps	What further records or checks could strengthen or change the conclusion.

The Verigate principle: A defensible conclusion starts with verifiable evidence, not a dramatic detector number. If the available facts do not justify certainty, the report should say so.

DISCUSS A DIGITAL AUTHENTICITY CONCERN

Question the content. Examine the evidence.

verigate.co.uk/verigate-verify.html · enquiries@verigate.co.uk

Publication notice: The case, parties, source records, simulated metadata, render IDs and 95% illustrative assessment are fictional. The photograph is decorative and no allegation is made about the property shown. This is a marketing sample of report format and reasoning, not a completed forensic case or court report.