

Frederick Ayres

Risk Investigations | Operational Due Diligence | Geopolitical Intelligence | Infrastructure Resilience | Supply Chain Defence

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Professional Summary

Risk and investigations practitioner across Tier-1 financial services and cross-sector infrastructure. I produce end-to-end analytical work: 10,000–20,000-word evidence-based assessments, executive-level reports for COOs and Heads of Function, and forensic contract reviews across operational risk, due diligence, and critical infrastructure assurance. My work spans the full investigation lifecycle: scoping, evidence gathering, on-site fieldwork, analysis, and findings presentation. I identify the systemic vulnerabilities that determine whether critical systems survive volatility: operational debt, vendor concentration, and single points of failure.

Creator of **Fracture Point Analysis™ (FPA)**, a proprietary risk assessment methodology for evaluating the survivability of critical infrastructure and supply chains under stress. Author of a series of published analytical briefings on systemic risk across infrastructure, commodities, and geopolitical flashpoints. Active on X (@FrederickAyres), publishing weekly analysis on commodity risk and geopolitical developments.

Core Competencies

Risk Investigations & Due Diligence: End-to-end scoping, evidence review, on-site fieldwork, forensic analysis, and findings presentation to COO and board level. M&A operational due diligence and stressed exit planning

Operational Risk & Resilience: Designing survivability frameworks for Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) and high-availability assets. Business continuity assessment, vendor insolvency impact analysis

Geopolitical & Trade Risk: Monitoring opaque markets, trade corridor vulnerabilities, and chokepoint risk across global commodity flows. Published analytical briefing series covering infrastructure, commodities, and geopolitical risk

Physical Asset Assurance: Applying the 5Ds of Security (Deter, Detect, Deny, Delay, Defend) to Tier-1 data centre environments. On-site security and resilience reviews across UK and Netherlands

Intelligence & OSINT: A decade of open-source intelligence practice: live event monitoring, AIS vessel tracking, conflict monitoring, and geopolitical pattern recognition

Professional Experience

Lloyds Banking Group – Risk & Resilience Investigations

Senior Audit Analyst - City of London - June 2023 — Present

Delivering assurance across critical automated controls, operational resilience, and third-party risk within one of the UK's largest financial institutions. Contributing to integrated audits with independent judgement on resilience-related risk areas. Producing end-to-end assessments independently, from scoping and evidence gathering through to executive-level findings presentation.

Key Mandates:

Infrastructure Resilience & Migration: Performed resilience testing on the operational transition of the LBCM capital markets trading platform between Tier-1 data centre facilities. Verified physical integrity, failover synchronisation, SLA monitoring, and stressed exit planning

M&A Operational Due Diligence (£390M Acquisition): Conducted the Business Continuity assessment for the £390M acquisition of Embark Group. Assessed the survivability of critical assets during integration, ensuring no degradation of service during complex pension asset migration

Supply Chain Crisis & Supplier Insolvency: Tracked governance and operational impact of a critical supplier entering administration. Assessed activation of contingency arrangements and evaluated dependencies across affected operations

Commercial Resilience & Stressed Exit: Conducted forensic contract reviews to identify vendor lock-in risks. Assessed the operational reality of stressed exit plans, verifying that LBG could physically migrate data and services away from failing suppliers in a contested environment

RSM UK – Cross-Sector Risk Investigations & Infrastructure Assurance

Technology Risk Consultant - Leeds/City of London - Jan 2022 — Jun 2023

Operated within a cross-border Technology Risk practice covering critical infrastructure across finance, legal, energy, and construction sectors in the UK and the Netherlands. Conducted end-to-end engagements independently, from scoping through fieldwork to COO-level debrief, typically completing full assessments in 1–2 weeks.

Key Engagements:

Critical National Infrastructure (Nuclear): Conducted NIST Cybersecurity Framework review of Laing O'Rourke's UK IT estate, whose operations portfolio included the Hinkley Point C nuclear new-build programme. Assessed cybersecurity posture and IT resilience across the organisation

Tier-1 Data Centre Security Reviews (UK & Netherlands): Executed on-site security and resilience reviews of Equinix LD5 (Slough) and Equinix AMX4/AMX5 (Amsterdam). Assessed physical integrity, access control, and Smart Hands security protocols of High-Frequency Trading (HFT) environments. Deployed solo to Amsterdam for the AMX4/AMX5 review

Strategic Technology Assurance: Delivered complex IT risk assessments across diverse regulatory environments. Partnered directly with the firm's Technology Risk Partner on major engagements, including Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. Full engagement lifecycle: scoping, fieldwork, report writing, COO-level debriefs

Proprietary Methodology

Fracture Point Analysis™ (FPA)

A structured, repeatable framework for assessing the resilience of critical infrastructure and supply chains. Three-phase methodology (**Expose the Mirage → Map the Blast Radius → Stress the Exit**) applied across six domains, 36 assessment categories, and 180 diagnostic questions. Includes a five-level maturity model. Comparable in structure to NIST CSF and ISO 31000, but purpose-built for operational/physical infrastructure risk, vendor concentration, and geopolitical exposure.

→ Full methodology: frederickjayres.com/fpa

Independent Research & Analytical Platform

Parables of Risk

A series of published long-form analyses on systemic risk across infrastructure, commodities, and geopolitical flashpoints. Topics include: Strait of Hormuz chokepoint vulnerability, global phosphate supply concentration, wet bulb threshold risk to Gulf infrastructure, fleet replacement capacity, copper supply fragility, and financial warfare vectors.

→ frederickjayres.com/parables

X (formerly Twitter) – @FrederickAyres

Active analytical presence covering geopolitical risk, commodity supply chains, and infrastructure vulnerability. Publishing weekly long-form threads and analysis summaries.

Live Intelligence Platform

Built and maintain a live operational intelligence platform comprising three modules:

Pulse: Real-time monitoring of orbital assets, kinetic threat detection (USGS/FIRMS correlation), and maritime chokepoint volume tracking across 12+ strategic corridors

Atlas: Interactive mapping of critical energy infrastructure, trade routes, chokepoints, undersea cables, and conflict zones, with a regional Fracture Point Analysis™ assessment tool

Markets: Live commodity prices, freight indices, and systemic friction indicators

→ frederickjayres.com/pulse | /atlas | /markets

Education

MSc Cyber Security, Threat Intelligence & Digital Forensics

2020-2021

University of Salford

Distinction – Dissertation graded by a CGI Director of Cyber Security Services

BSc (Hons) Computer Science

2017-2018

York St. John University

2:1 (Upper Second Class Honours)

Professional Development

CISA ICS/SCADA Cybersecurity — Completed. Industrial Control Systems security awareness, ICS/SCADA threats, and defence-in-depth for critical infrastructure

OPSWAT ICIP (Introduction to Critical Infrastructure Protection) — In Progress, Q2 2026. OT/ICS cybersecurity fundamentals

Google Cloud Digital Leader — In Progress, Q1 2026. Cloud infrastructure governance and resilience frameworks

Professional Affiliations

Council of Foreign Relations (CFR): Member and subscriber to Foreign Affairs.

Project Owl – OSINT Community: 10-year active member specialising in live event monitoring and open-source Intelligence.

Leadership & Military Foundation

Ampleforth College CCF (Combined Cadet Force): Formative military leadership training under former UK Special Forces instruction. Focused on operational discipline, small-unit tactics, and mental resilience.

Open to mandates: London · Gulf · EMEA — Risk Investigations, Operational Due Diligence, Geopolitical Intelligence, Infrastructure Resilience, Supply Chain Defence

Clearance: SC eligible | **Mobility:** Unrestricted (no mortgage, no dependents)