

Is brandswell.co.za safe? TrustSniffer's low-trust assessment: 40/100

brandswell.co.za

Verdict

40

OUT OF 100

LOW TRUST

brandswell.co.za is low-trust and potentially risky.

Several risk patterns were present. Do not send money or personal details until you have verified this business another way.

Sensitive Interaction Risk

Governance Risk

Assessed 2026-08-20 by automated analysis. Classification confidence 55%.

What this site appears to be

Corporate website for Brandswell, an African-based marketing and branding agency established in 2005. The site presents services, a news/blog feed, contact details (addresses in Johannesburg and Durban), and an enquiry form to request services.

Evidence status and limitations

- Evidence completeness: UNKNOWN
- The real-world operator identity was not independently verified.
 - Module-level completeness metadata is unavailable for this legacy report.

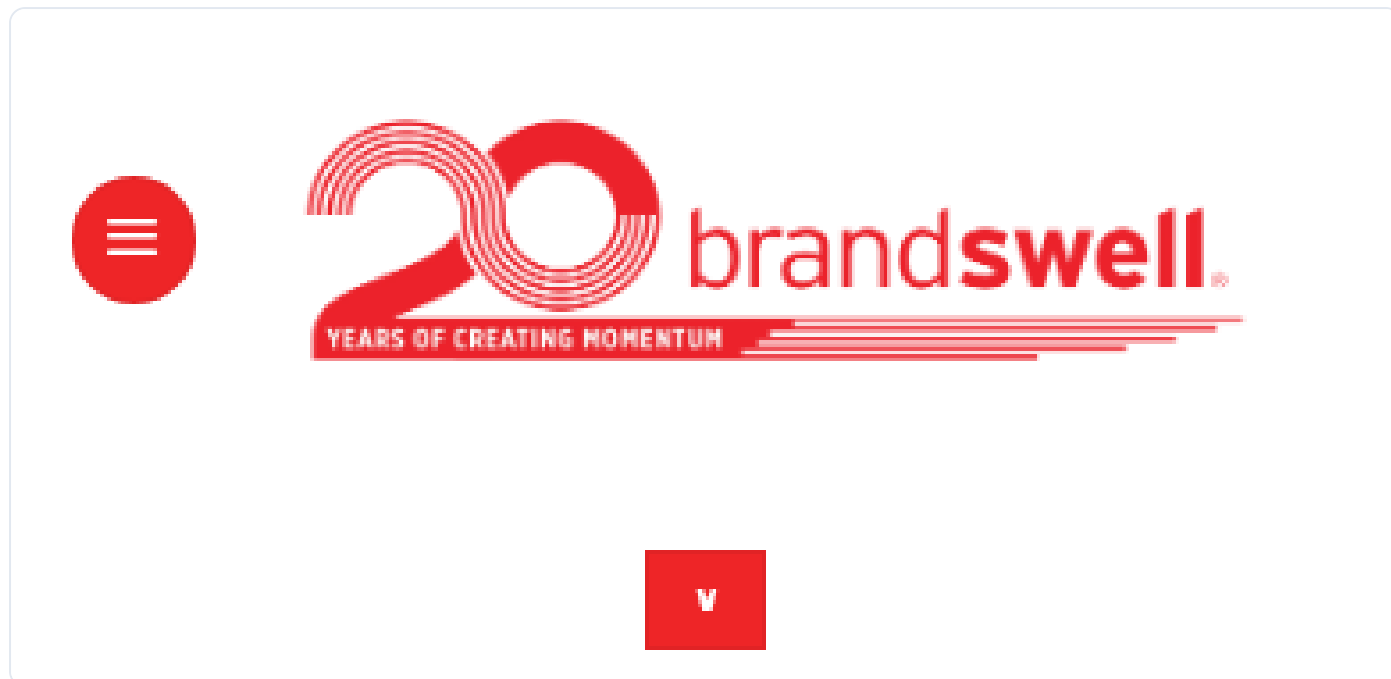
At a glance

The checks that decide most of this verdict.

Malware engines	2 flagged it VirusTotal	RISK
Google Safe Browsing	Not listed Google	CLEAR
Abuse reports on the host	0 reports AbuseIPDB; shared hosting inflates this count	NOTED
Domain age	20 years old Registered history	CLEAR
Web archive	Archived since 2008 Public history exists	CLEAR
Certificate	Encrypted connection Issued by YR1	NOTED

The page as captured

<https://brandswell.co.za/>



What brandswell.co.za served when TrustSniffer captured it on 2026-08-20. The page may look different now.

Key findings

- Automated classification: Sensitive Interaction Risk.
- Domain age: more than 10 years (registration continuity).
- Public web-archive history exists since 2008.
- At least one reputation service TrustSniffer consulted had flagged this domain at assessment time.

Full analysis

Overview

Brandswell is a corporate website for an African-based marketing, branding, and communications agency. It presents brand strategy, creative development, integrated campaigns, media and social-media strategy, public relations, events, production, and related services, with the apparent business model of securing client engagements through enquiries, project fees, retainers, and creative production.

Scam/Impersonation Risk

The site itself presents a coherent corporate-agency profile, with service descriptions, portfolio-oriented content, social links, contact details, and a non-sensitive enquiry form; page-level analysis found no login form, hidden form, wallet activity, or apparent brand-impersonation indicators. However, this benign presentation is outweighed by confirmed external reputation contradictions: two malicious detections were recorded and the domain is blacklisted by more than one external source. Accordingly, the site should be treated as presenting elevated risk for sensitive interactions despite the absence of obvious deception mechanics in the captured pages. No conflicting legal-entity names were observed across the supplied identity material.

EVIDENCE

- The homepage presents Brandswell as a marketing and communications agency and states that it has operated since 2005; no page-level phishing or impersonation indicator was identified.
- The contact page contains one service-enquiry form with no password or other sensitive-data field.
- Domain registration evidence: registered 2006-05-07 and approximately 20.3 years old.
- Archived web presence: 73 snapshots spanning 2008–2025, with 18 years tracked.

Regulatory Verification Notes

The available identity material is consistent with a real operating brand but does not independently prove the legal operator. The site identifies Johannesburg and Durban contact locations and publishes a company history, while the supplied evidence does not establish a regulated financial-services activity or verify a regulatory licence. The disclosure position is therefore unclear for any engagement requiring a formal corporate, contractual, or regulatory counterparty assessment. The confirmed external blacklist and malicious detections are reputational security signals rather than a licensing determination.

EVIDENCE

- The homepage describes Brandswell as a virtual, integrated marketing and communications agency with a stated 2005 history.
- The contact page publishes Johannesburg and Durban addresses and invites service enquiries.
- Registration evidence identifies Register Domain SA as registrar, with an expiration date of 2027-05-07.
- The site's transport encryption uses a DV certificate issued by YR1, valid through 2026-10-23.

What to Verify Next

Before any contractual or payment commitment, the proposed counterparty should be matched to an independently obtained company record and the published business addresses should be confirmed through an offline or independently sourced channel. Any licence or registration claimed during onboarding should be checked directly with the relevant South African registry or regulator rather than relying solely on the website. The external security detections should also be escalated to the organisation's security team for resolution before credentials, confidential material, or payment details are submitted.

EVIDENCE

- Compare the legal name and contracting entity in any proposal, invoice, or agreement with independently sourced corporate records.
- Confirm contact channels using a separate trusted source rather than relying only on the website's enquiry route.
- Review the terms of engagement, refund or cancellation provisions, banking details, and data-handling commitments before authorising a transaction.
- Require the organisation's security controls to clear the external reputation issue before sensitive interaction.

Summary Verdict

The overall posture is **low trust with elevated sensitive-interaction risk**. The website has a credible corporate presentation and apparent business identity, but those positive content signals do not overcome the confirmed external reputation contradictions. Identity is assessed as likely rather than independently verified.

Infrastructure Integrity

The site resolves directly to a single likely origin address with no detected CDN or WAF layer, so the infrastructure provides limited protective separation between the website and its hosting environment. The server is hosted by Xneelo (Pty) Ltd in South Africa on AS37153; this is a technical hosting fact and should not be treated as proof of legitimacy.

EVIDENCE

- Hosting telemetry: AS37153, Xneelo (Pty) Ltd, South Africa.
- The resolved infrastructure shows 1 unique IP, 0 edge IPs, and 1 likely origin IP.
- TLS telemetry: issuer YR1, validation level DV, valid to 2026-10-23T09:04:41+00:00.

Closing Assessment

Interaction should remain limited to informational, read-only browsing until the external security detections and counterparty identity have been independently resolved; credentials, confidential submissions, and financial commitments should not be made through the site in the interim.

Written analysis generated 2026-08-20 by the TrustSniffer Analysis Engine from the evidence in this report.

What the analysis found

2 findings contributed to this verdict, raised by registration and ownership, analysis engine.

01 Governance Risk

- The public registration record for this domain is incomplete.

Registration and ownership rule:KF_WHOIS_INCOMPLETE

02 Sensitive Interaction Risk

- The analysis matched a pattern TrustSniffer treats as a direct threat to a visitor.

Analysis engine signal:direct_threat

Identity verification

Status	LIKELY
Identity score	79/100
Identity verification confidence	78%
• Trusted social count=3	

Identity verification measures whether the site can be independently connected to a real-world brand or person. It is separate from the classification confidence.

What TrustSniffer observed

First-party facts recorded during the assessment of brandswell.co.za.

- The request stayed on brandswell.co.za. It was not redirected to another domain. CLEAR
- Registration is published under Register Domain SA. CLEAR
- DNS for this domain is served by host-h.net, across 4 name servers. NOTED
- The registration is paid up to 2027-05-07. NOTED
- The earliest public archive of this site is from 2008-01-31. CLEAR
- It is hosted on Xneelo (Pty) Ltd, from a server in ZA. NOTED

Domain intelligence

Registrar	Register Domain SA
Hosting	Xneelo (Pty) Ltd - Xneelo (Pty) Ltd, ZA
Country	ZA
Server IP	197.221.10.81
Name servers	ns1.host-h.net, ns2.host-h.net, ns1.dns-h.com, ns2.dns-h.com
SSL issuer	YR1
SSL expiry	2026-10-23
Domain age	20.30 years (continuous registration)
Domain expiry	2027-05-07
Archive first seen	2008-01-31
Archive snapshots	Not counted (archive lookup incomplete)
Reputation	VirusTotal: 2 flagged AbuseIPDB: 0 reports Google Safe Browsing: 0 matches

About this assessment

A trust score summarises the evidence TrustSniffer could collect about brandswell.co.za at assessment time. It is a starting point for your own judgement, not a guarantee: a high score means the signals were consistent with a legitimately operated site, a low or critical score means several risk patterns were present.

TrustSniffer assesses a website from the evidence it can collect at a point in time: domain registration and age, hosting and certificate, the content the site served, and third-party reputation feeds. A score is a summary of that evidence, not a guarantee and not a legal finding. There is no human rating and no user review in it. A site can change after it is assessed.