

Rhys Davies

ACA ICAEW, BSc | Finance Automation Leader | Product Owner | Data and AI Transformation

London, United Kingdom | Generated from knowledge base content

Professional Summary

ACA-qualified finance transformation leader bridging accounting, product, data engineering, and AI. Experienced across practice, fintech, and banking, with a track record of turning manual finance operations into scalable, technology-enabled systems.

Selected Differentiators

- Bridges finance requirements and technical implementation across data platforms, automation, and AI.
- Led finance transformation initiatives across 10+ source systems supporting 50+ finance users.
- Combines product leadership, data modeling, and pragmatic process automation with strong accounting foundations.
- Focused on practical AI use cases in finance, including knowledge systems, process documentation, and intelligent automation.

Career Experience

Allica Bank | Product Owner, Finance Automation | May 2024 - Present

- Lead finance transformation for an agile team spanning data engineers, analysts, and transformation delivery.
- Own finance data platform migration and dimensional modeling standards across 10+ source systems.
- Drive finance roadmap work across close tooling, system integration, data quality, and AI adoption.

HeidiPay | Finance Manager | May 2022 - May 2024

- Operated as the sole finance lead across reporting, cash operations, and process design in a high-growth fintech.
- Built compliant automation for payment and reporting workflows using Python, SQL, Airflow, and GCP.
- Partnered cross-functionally with product and engineering to scale controls and improve operational resilience.

Starling Bank | SME Toolkit Accountant / Product Manager | March 2019 - April 2022

- Managed integrated bookkeeping and VAT product delivery with an agile engineering team of 10+ developers.
- Owned discovery, backlog prioritization, servicing operations, and developer API product support.
- Delivered major policy and operational changes including Brexit VAT updates and Bounce Back Loan support.

Blinkhorns | Graduate Accountant to Senior Accountant | August 2016 - March 2019

- Built core accounting, tax, and audit capability across SME and media-sector clients.
- Automated tax preparation workflows with Excel and VBA to improve throughput during peak periods.
- Became a go-to technical Excel resource and trained colleagues on better spreadsheet practices.

Core Capabilities

- Finance transformation and product leadership
- SQL, Python, BigQuery, dimensional modeling, and orchestration
- Process automation across finance systems and payment operations
- AI experimentation including RAG, process mapping, and intelligent assistants
- Stakeholder alignment across finance, engineering, product, and operations

Selected Projects

HeidiPay Payment Automation

Designed an automated payment workflow that generated compliant ISO20022 XML files from internal finance data.

Outcome: Removed a full day of weekly manual payment processing while improving validation, control, and scalability.

Allica Finance Data Platform Migration

Led warehouse and finance-model modernization across multiple source systems with better dimensional standards.

Outcome: Created a stronger foundation for finance reporting, issue detection, and future automation.

Personal Knowledge Base and AI Profile Assistant

Built a structured knowledge system and chat experience to surface profile, competency, and technical context.

Outcome: Demonstrates practical AI application, information design, and personal product thinking.

Education

- ACA, ICAEW (2017 - 2019)
- BSc Biochemistry, University of Bristol (2012 - 2015)
- A-Levels: Mathematics A*, Biology A, Chemistry B

Professional Development

- Google Cloud Digital Leader
- Data engineering bootcamp completion with top 3% cohort performance
- Excel advanced training and VBA coursework
- Finance in a Digital World: RPA, AI, blockchain, and the future of finance work