

# BEN WATSON

## SOFTWARE ENGINEER

### CONTACT

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### PRIMARY STACK

**Language** | Python (with mypy + async)  
**Database** | PostgreSQL (with SQLAlchemy)  
**Web Framework** | FastAPI / Flask  
**Infra** | GCP / k8s / Docker / Terraform  
**Monitoring** | DataDog / Sentry  
**CI / CD** | CircleCI / GitHub Actions  
**Other** | pydantic / PubSub / Temporal  
**Project** | Jira / Confluence / Linear

### EDUCATION

**University of York** 2013 - 2016

**Mathematics BSc (Hons)**

2:1 (67%). Included Formal Languages & Automata, Abstract Algebra, Number Theory, and Cryptography.

**Oxted School** 2006 - 2013

**A Levels** | Mathematics (A\*), Further Mathematics (B), Physics (B), Chemistry AS (A)

**GCSEs** | 5 A\*s (Mathematics, English, Physics, Chemistry, Biology), 6 As, 2 Bs

### HOBBIES

#### Engineering

wainlog - a Lake District summit tracker with FastAPI / PostgreSQL / Google OAuth2  
fagiolo - a simple meal planner with Flask  
mixon - a tiny little cocktail helper with Flask

#### Other

Bouldering; woodwork; endless DIY, ceramics; food & drink; Italy; multi-day walking trips; winter sports

### PROFILE

Ahoy. I'm a **values-driven** backend engineer, primarily working in **Python**. I particularly enjoy distilling complex problems into their simplest forms; solving those problems with simple, robust software; mentoring junior engineers; and working in small, fast teams to build products that genuinely delight users. I also love making things (anything!), bouldering, and being outside.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

#### Zoa | Software Engineer

Nov 2022 - Feb 2024

##### Data Platform Team

Predominantly building an integration layer to connect third-party systems to Zoa's products. Zoa are building consumer tech for the energy revolution, with a focus on encouraging electrification through brilliant consumer experiences.

- Designed and implemented an integration testing pipeline for the team's services
- Championed documentation + introduced a standalone docs site in Jekyll/GitHub Actions with auto-generated docs and entity relationship diagrams
- Built a lightweight FastAPI app for engineers to onboard consumers in bulk via a UI, with a simple PostgreSQL message queue to make local testing easy
- Participated in hiring and onboarding, and created interviewing resources

##### Octopus Migration Team

Designed, built and scaled the majority of the tooling used to migrate Bulb's 1.7 million energy accounts to Octopus in the largest and fastest UK energy migration.

#### Bulb | Software Engineer

Oct 2020 - Nov 2022

##### Energy Operations Team

Part of a small, multidisciplinary team automating manual processes in Python and building tooling for the Operations team of ~100.

- Developed a full-stack Flask app for teams to run configurable tools to carry out bulk actions securely and robustly. Used to automate over 1 million manual tasks a month (33 million total in its lifetime) by ~200 Bulb team members
- Coached a number of junior engineers, created numerous learning materials for people wanting to break into engineering, and lead a tech show & tell session

#### Bulb | Energy Specialist

Feb 2018 - Oct 2020

##### Experience Team / Energy Operations Team

Early team member at Bulb. Worked in a customer-facing role in the Experience team, before joining the Ops team and using Python and SQL to automate manual processes as the team grew from 10 to ~80 people.

#### International Citizen Service | Volunteer

Jan 2017 - Apr 2017

##### Oke Ode, Nigeria

Worked on a mix of community projects mainly focussed around education. Frequently led our team of 16 British and Nigerian volunteers.