

# Ben Chidgey

Contract full-stack engineer · feedMyPixel Ltd · Remote worldwide, UK based

ben@feedmypixel.com

feedmypixel.com · github.com/feedmypixel · linkedin.com/in/benchidgey

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Twenty years building software that lasts – simple bricks that combine into reliable systems. I take a need, an idea, a problem, and build the product end to end: iteratively, testable, for all kinds of users on every device.

Currently at Whisky Invest Direct, leading a greenfield rebuild of their trading platform in SvelteKit and TypeScript, backed by a Fastify API on AWS, with GitLab CI/CD and a design system bridged across the marketing site and the portal. Previously Hapi.js and AWS for DEFRA, React on GCP for Wayfair, and Express, Next.js and TypeScript for Pret. I have worked on a number of long-running contracts with the Guardian, the BBC, MoJ, HMRC, HMPO and DIT.

Working across code, design, architecture and product means I can make decisions without waiting on handoffs – and ship things that solve the actual problem, on time.

## Skills

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**Core**            TypeScript, JavaScript, CSS, HTML, SvelteKit, Node, Fastify, AWS

**Also**            React, Next.js, GraphQL, Postgres, MongoDB, Terraform, GitHub Actions

**Throughout**   Accessibility, progressive enhancement, performance, testing, CI/CD, mentoring, UX, DX

## Experience

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### Whisky Invest Direct

Apr 2026 to present

Full-Stack Engineer · Remote and London · Contract

Leading a greenfield rebuild of the core trading platform and API. Rebuild of the iOS and Android apps. Modernising of the architecture and embedding User Experience, Developer Experience, testing, accessibility and delivery best practice across engineering and product.

TypeScript, JavaScript, CSS, HTML, SvelteKit, Fastify, Capacitor, iOS, Android, AWS, AI, Vitest, Playwright, Accessibility, Observability, CI/CD

## DEFRA

Mar 2023 to Feb 2026

Full-Stack Platform Engineer · Remote · Contract

Designed and built the Core Delivery Platform Portal at DEFRA from a blank page. It's the developer UI that lets tenant teams create, release and run their services, tooling and infrastructure, and it sits at the core of DEFRA's software offering, holding standards and parity across every service built on it.

It went from concept to the way software gets built at DEFRA. GDS reported time to first release dropping from three-to-six months to hours, and recovery from failure from a week to under an hour.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, Node, Hapi, MongoDB, GOV.UK Frontend, Nunjucks, AWS, AI, Docker, Vitest, WDIO, GitHub Actions, Accessibility, Design system, Templates, Postgres

## Wayfair

Jan 2022 to Dec 2022

Software Engineer · Aug 2022 to Dec 2022 · Remote · Contract

Built the Freight Portal frontend microservice for Global Transportation Services, where users find and interact with every Wayfair facility service.

TypeScript, JavaScript, CSS, HTML, React, Kubernetes, Jest, Cypress, Micro frontend, Accessibility, DataDog

Senior Frontend Engineer and Tech Lead · Jan 2022 to Aug 2022 · Remote · Contract

Tech lead on the Global Customs Platform team, creating the Customs Portal frontend microservice.

TypeScript, JavaScript, CSS, HTML, React, Kubernetes, Jest, Cypress, Accessibility, DataDog, BuildKite

## Pret A Manger

Jan 2021 to Dec 2021

Platform Engineer · Remote · Contract

Set up a custom developer portal, Disco, using the Backstage platform from Spotify. A developer data platform that obtained and served custom SRE and Accelerate metrics for Pret's digital estate, providing detailed transparency on the platform and all of its assets.

Created Next.js and Express template repositories. Rolled out Sentry observability and regularly ran chaos experiments and incident exercises with tenant teams to practice diagnosing and debugging issues whilst gaining familiarity with how services work on the platform.

TypeScript, JavaScript, CSS, HTML, Node, React, Next.js, GCP, Lambda, Terraform, Backstage, Postgres, Sentry, Jest, Cypress

## LifeBox Health

Jul 2020 to Dec 2020

Senior Full-Stack Developer · Brighton and Remote · Contract

Took on a React codebase grown over several years and stalled midway through the move from class to function components. Brought in functional patterns, testing and quality. Improved both the user experience and the developer experience while working alongside the junior developers on the team.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, React, GraphQL, Node, AWS, Lambda, Jest, CodeceptJS, Accessibility, Mentoring

## Rewind

Feb 2020 to Mar 2020

Senior Frontend Developer · St Albans · Contract

Brought in as the specialist to get a late project over the line: the Leaflet mapping inside the Dubai Expo 2020 app.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, Node, Leaflet, Accessibility

## Ministry of Justice

Aug 2019 to Dec 2019

Senior Full-Stack Developer · London · Contract

Frontend for booking secure moves on the Prisoner Escort and Custody Service, a paper to digital transformation delivered with designers and user researchers. Built document upload as a whole vertical: the multi-file upload component, its controller and API model, size limits and client side error handling, the translations and both unit and end to end coverage. Handed it over on leaving and it stayed in the service for years afterwards.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, Node, Express, GOV.UK, Nunjucks, Pattern library, Progressive enhancement, Kubernetes, Jest, Testcafe, Accessibility

## Marks and Spencer

Apr 2019 to Aug 2019

Senior Full-Stack Developer · London · Contract

Framework team, building the shared tooling and component library used by teams across the dot-com business and worked with the bespoke in-house JavaScript framework, whilst React was brought in to various departments across the business.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, Node, Express, React, Architecture, Pattern library, Concourse, Jest, Progressive enhancement, Accessibility, Mentoring

## HM Passport Office

Oct 2018 to Dec 2018

Senior Full-Stack Developer · London · Contract

Inherited a legacy appointment booking system and its public journeys, established how it actually behaved, then proposed a roadmap with the design team and carried it through senior stakeholders. The team rebuilt it in-house as Node microservices.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, Node, Express, Microservices, GOV.UK Pay, Home Office Forms, Redis, Jest, Progressive enhancement, Accessibility

## Department for International Trade

May 2017 to Mar 2018

Senior Full-Stack Developer · London · Contract

Software and infrastructure for the Data Hub team, enabling civil servants to manage the business relationships behind UK trade and investment.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, Node, Express, React, Vue, Nunjucks, Docker, Redis, SSO, CircleCI, Nightwatch, Pattern library, Accessibility, Architecture

## HM Revenue and Customs

Sep 2015 to Apr 2017

Senior Frontend Developer · Sep 2016 to Apr 2017 · London · Contract

Created the HMRC design language in a small team, with the documentation, process and principles behind it, so designers and developers could build frontend services for the Tax Platform with parity across HMRC. Worked closely with GDS and partnered on the first releases of the GOV.UK Frontend.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, Design system, Pattern library, Frontend operations, Node, Scala, Sass, AWS, Responsive, Accessibility, Documentation, Mentoring, GOV.UK Frontend

Senior Frontend Developer · Feb 2016 to Sep 2016 · London · Contract

Tackled frontend architecture across the Tax Platform with Platform Operations. Refactored shared assets, exposed components through a component library and mentored frontend developers and designers on how to approach common problems.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, Frontend architecture, Component library, React, Node, Scala, Sass, Responsive, Accessibility, Mentoring

Frontend Developer · Sep 2015 to Feb 2016 · London · Contract

Built user interfaces for HMRC digital services. Implemented Government Gateway two factor authentication and registration, generic client and server form validation for Identity Verification and the API documentation site.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, Scala, Node, Sass, Responsive, Security, Forms, Accessibility

## Department for Work and Pensions

Apr 2015 to May 2015

Frontend Developer · London · Contract

Universal Credit. Analysed a mature codebase and presented frontend improvements, tackled technical debt and built rapid prototyping tools and workflows for the UX and design team.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, Node, Sass, FlightJS, Jasmine, Grunt, Responsive, Prototyping, Accessibility

## Guardian News and Media

Apr 2014 to Apr 2015

Client-Side Engineer · London · Contract

Membership team, building the beta responsive site and its tools. Lean agile with Scala and micro JavaScript libraries, pair programming, code review and continuous integration.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, Node, Scala, Sass, BEM, Responsive, Jasmine, Grunt, CI, Pair programming, Code review, Mentoring

## feedMyPixel

Feb 2014 to Mar 2014

Research and Development · St Albans · Freelance

Research and development between contracts, getting to know AngularJS as well as other side projects.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, Angular

## Deutsche Telekom UK

Oct 2012 to Dec 2013

Mobile Frontend Developer · Hatfield · Contract

Responsive work across several products: a client dashboard, a globally distributed header injected into many Telekom pages, an SMS to web prototype that became the company Node skeleton and a rebuilt advertising asset platform.

JavaScript, CSS3, HTML5, Responsive, Node, Express, Jessie, Mobile

## BBC

Aug 2011 to Aug 2012

Software Engineer · London · Contract

Future Media Core Services on iBroadcast2, a next generation media and metadata publishing platform behind iPlayer, scheduling and BBC websites. Fortnight sprints with PHP, jQuery and Cucumber.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, PHP, Zend, jQuery, LessCSS, TDD, BDD, REST, Pair programming

## eDigitalResearch

Apr 2010 to Jul 2011

Application Support Developer · Southampton · Permanent

Supported the applications, websites and in-house tools behind customer insight analytics for clients including Sky, BT, Expedia, Virgin and the BBC.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, PHP, Zend, jQuery, MooTools, PostgreSQL

## Freelance

Oct 2007 to Apr 2010

Web Developer and Designer · Southampton · Freelance

Development across a large dynamic website driven by a hand-built content management system, culminating in the Lazy Gramophone platform.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, PHP, MySQL, SEO, UX, CMS

## Lazy Gramophone

2004 to 2010

Web Developer and Designer · Remote · Freelance

A community publishing platform and bespoke CMS for the arts collective and publisher, built from the ground up in PHP and MySQL, with editing tools for artists to manage their own work, an invite and management facility and comment moderation.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, PHP, MySQL, Photoshop, UX, SEO, CMS

## Design Haus

Mar 2010

Frontend Developer · Southampton · Freelance

An internal intranet for Diageo, built in jQuery and Mustache.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, jQuery, Mustache, Photoshop, UX

## Trusted Digital

Jan 2007 to Oct 2007

Product Design Manager · Brighton · Permanent

Interactive SMS marketing services for mobile handsets and the mobile web, built in Mobile Profile HTML. Making the case for purpose-built mobile experiences years before mobile first became normal practice.

XHTML-MP, CSS, Photoshop, SEO

## Hotxt

Aug 2006 to Dec 2006

Quality Assurance Manager · London · Permanent

Introduced a QA testing structure for a J2ME text over IP start-up across many handsets and networks, forming the beginnings of an in-house QA department.

QA, Mobile, J2ME

## Freelance

Oct 2005 to Jul 2006

Developer and Designer · Brighton · Freelance

Web and mobile media, J2ME game graphics and 3D modelling, including the 3D work for the Concorde2 website and the Battleships mobile game.

JavaScript, CSS, HTML, Flash, Photoshop, 3ds Max, Premiere, J2ME, Design

## Babel Media

Aug 2002 to Sep 2005

QA Technician · Brighton · Permanent

Console TRC certification for PS2 and GameCube, then started the mobile J2ME QA department and grew it from three people to over 150, adapting testing procedures to new workloads and operator requirements.

Game QA, Mobile QA, Sony TRC, Microsoft certification, Test-track Pro, Process

## Education

### University of Hertfordshire

1999 to 2002

BA (Hons) Software Systems for the Arts and Media, 2.1.

The degree covered computer programming, computer systems and hardware, computer generated imaging, digital image and sound processes, digital time-based and interactive media, principles and theory of hypermedia design, virtual reality and cyber culture.

### Oxford College of Further Education

1999

City and Guilds Certificate of Information Technology for Computing. City and Guilds Certificate of Information Technology for Visual Basic 1.

### Gosford Hill School, Kidlington

1988 to 1994

GCSE English Literature [A](#), English Language [A](#), Geography [A](#), Science [AA](#), Business Studies [B](#), Mathematics [B](#), History [C](#), Craft Design and Technology [D](#).

## References

Available on request.