# OLLIE GLASS - Lead AI Engineer

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## PROFILE

Seeking permanent Lead/Staff AI Engineer role in a startup or product team, London or remote. Strongest as first or second AI hire: I own evals, deployment, monitoring, and the data layer end-to-end.

I've shipped forecasting systems, recommendation engines, LLM pipelines, and data platforms under pressure. What I'm actually best at is making ambiguity workable. After years of contract projects, I'm seeking a permanent role where I can shape direction and own product arcs, not just deliver.

## SKILLS

**LLM** RAG, tool use, embeddings, evals, guardrails
**ML** forecasting, recsys, bandits, MLOps lifecycle
**Data** dbt, warehouse (BigQuery, Redshift, Snowflake), Airflow, ELT/ETL, privacy, security, governance
**Deployment** APIs, observability, latency, cost, GCP, AWS

## SELECTED LLM + ML WORK

- Market intelligence pipeline + LLM-assisted analysis: ingestion, classification, scoring and LLM context pack selection. Cut research time from 10 hours to 5 mins per day (Scale Direction)
- LLM summarisation and embedding based clustering for trend detection. Under 10 mins end-to-end from sourcing to draft generation (Recruiting Brainfood)
- Cross-region time series forecasting and anomaly detection via domain harmonisation. Improved forecast accuracy by 20% (RMSE) (Valtech)
- AutoML time-series forecasting system, ranking candidates for user review. Integrated into app workflow with APIs, plus automated training (Futrli)
- Recommendation engine capturing curatorial style similarity. Production-ready build including offline ranking evaluation (NDCG@K) (Trouva)
- Ad mediation optimiser with online learning (contextual bandit + supervised learning). Served 500M events per day, included offline and online evals and fallbacks (Tapdaq)

## WORK HISTORY

**Technical Co-founder**, Scale Direction                                            Jul 2025 - Jan 2026
- Built a daily job-intel product (4 sources, ~100 posts/day) using scrapers, LinkedIn enrichment, and dashboard with save-to-prospect workflow and one-click LLM context packs.
- Classified roles and extracted SaaS tools to score ICP companies (high SaaS tool sprawl, not yet hiring) enabling better-timed and targetted outbound. Cut research from ~10h/day to ~5m/day.
- Venture with a business partner. Built the technical platform, but did not get commercial traction.

**Contract Lead AI Engineer**, Recruiting Brainfood                                  Oct 2024 - Mar 2025
- Designed and built an automated intelligence platform ingesting ~100 sources daily. LLM layer used human-in-the-loop analysis and experiments to extract insights and draft summaries.
- Generated summary reports and surfaced unusual insights that informed leadership decisions and highlighted industry trends not tracked by existing channels.

**Contract Lead Data Engineer**, Power Importer                    Sep 2023 - Dec 2023
- Conducted technical due diligence for a SaaS acquisition, analysing product and data systems in a tight deal timeline. Leadership credited this work as invaluable to the purchase decision.
- Unified Stripe and Rails/MongoDB product data in a single BigQuery view, making customer, product, and revenue data auditable and correct for billing.

**Contract Lead Data Engineer**, Valtech                    Sep 2022 - Mar 2023
- Unblocked delivery and re-energised a stalled cross-functional team by clarifying needs with sales and account stakeholders, and turning ambiguity into deliverable requirements in a tight timeline with conflicting priorities.
- Refactored legacy code and built pipelines, models, and dashboards to unify inconsistent sales and customer data into a single view, giving account managers clarity and actionable insights.

**Contract Head of Data**, Allplants                    Apr 2022 - Sep 2022
- Restructured a fragmented AWS/Redshift, dbt and Looker estate into a stable, supportable platform, reducing breakages and restoring trust during a 6-month turnaround.
- Aligned BI, finance, and data through collaborative strategy sessions, creating a roadmap that prioritised business impact and established team ownership amid leadership churn.
- Modularised and standardised code that enabled BI analysts to contribute to data engineering, safeguarded data integrity, and cut reporting time by 75% while keeping reporting live.

## EARLIER HIGHLIGHTS

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| **Contract Lead Data Engineer,** Graze / Unilever | Sep 2021 - Feb 2022 |
| **Contract Lead ML Engineer**, Valtech | Jun 2021 - Sep 2021 |
| **Contract Lead Data Scientist,** Peanut | Jul 2020 - Nov 2020 |
| **Contract Lead Data Engineer,** Ohme | Jan 2020 - Jul 2020 |
| **Contract Head of Data**, Kano / STEM | May 2019 - Dec 2019 |
| **Contract Lead ML Engineer**, Futrli (acquired by Sage 2022) | July 2018 - Dec 2018 |
| **Contract ML Engineer**, Mercari Europe | Feb 2018 - May 2018 |
| **Data Strategy Consultant**, Social Chain (public IPO 2019) | Dec 2017 |
| **Contract ML Engineer**, Trouva (acquired by Made.com 2022) | Aug 2017 - Dec 2017 |
| **Contract Data Scientist**, Airfinity | Feb 2017 - Jul 2017 |
| **Contract Data Scientist**, Tapdaq (acquired by Tapjoy 2018) | May 2016 - Dec 2016 |
| **Contract Data Scientist**, Picfair | Sep 2015 - Jan 2016 |
| **Contract Data Scientist**, Rentify | Apr 2015 - Sep 2015 |
| **Contract Head of Data**, Silicon Milkroundabout | Mar 2014 - Jan 2015 |

## AWARDS

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| **Top 1% of financial forecasting models**, Numerai | May 2022 |
| **Top 4% of recommendation models**, Spotify Million Playlist Dataset Challenge | May 2021 |
| **Best session in conference**, ProductCamp | Apr 2013 |
| **Best AI dissertation in year**, Searchspace and University of Sussex | Jun 2005 |

## EDUCATION

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| **BSc Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science**, University of Sussex | Jun 2005 |