

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Senior Developer
RESPONSIBLE FOR:	Development of the Oppla web platform and other projects
REPORTS TO:	Technical Director
LOCATION:	Based in UK with regular visits to our Manchester office. You will be required to travel to occasional meetings around Europe.
HOURS OF WORK:	Full time 37 hours per week. Flexible working will be considered.
ANNUAL LEAVE:	25 days plus 8 public holidays.
SALARY:	£50,000 - £70,000 based on experience
STARTING DATE:	Mid-September onwards 2023
CONTRACT DURATION:	Permanent

ORGANISATION BACKGROUND

Countryside is a multi-disciplinary company, founded in 2002. We combine the creative skills of a communications agency with the scientific knowledge of an environmental consultancy.

Countryside is also a partner in Oppla, a web-based knowledge hub and community focussed on natural capital, ecosystem services and nature-based solutions. Oppla has grown to become the world's largest community dedicated to nature-based solutions; and the Oppla team is active in several, large scientific research and innovation projects, predominantly those funded by the EU Horizon programme. Within these projects we lead or contribute to work packages focussing on communication, dissemination and exploitation activities.

In this role you will be employed by Countryside to work mostly on Oppla projects. You will manage the redevelopment of the Oppla platform and several linked project platforms.

We are a small team that prides itself on producing high quality work in a friendly and transparent manner. We are an equal opportunities employer and operate a proactive environmental policy, seeking to minimise the environmental impacts of everything we do.

THE CHALLENGE

Oppla was first launched in 2016 as a combined outcome of two EU research projects. It was developed with the academic community and has evolved to become recognised by the European Commission as the 'EU Repository of Nature-based Solutions'.

Much has changed since then, but the Oppla website has not. It is still largely the same as when it first launched. It's got bigger and has attracted more content and more users. But it's now very much out-of-date and in need of a major re-fresh.

Oppla has grown organically over the years. We want to take the lessons we have learned and apply them in redeveloping and launching a new Oppla: retaining much of the original functionality, but greatly improved, better presented, simplified and overall delivering a better quality user experience.

JOB SUMMARY

We're looking for an experienced Drupal developer who can work independently but also integrate with our small team. You'll be expected to contribute to project planning and decision-making; be proactive in sharing your ideas; and be comfortable challenging the ideas we already have whenever a better solution presents itself.

This will involve:

- **Making things for easier for users and content contributors.** From simple things, like signing up to become a member of Oppla, to more involved interactions, such as adding a product to our marketplace; all need to be improved. We want to make these interactions easier and more rewarding for our users. We have ideas for redeveloping our content types and making the CMS easier for people to interact with; and we have a lot of user feedback to help us identify where improvements need to be made.
- **Redeveloping/rebuilding Oppla in Drupal 9** (currently D7) with a new, modernised design and user experience. We have graphic designers in-house who can work on the interface and an associate who can advise on UX, but we need a technical developer to join the dots and make it happen.
- **Streamlining our content management system** and helping us to rationalise the content we hold across multiple datasets. We have team members with a good understanding of database management and who can action content changes, but we need help realising what needs doing in Drupal.

Senior Developer

- **Preparing for freemium services.** Oppla's core services will always remain free of charge, but we'd like to develop revenue streams around some premium/add-on features. Introduction of these freemium services will come after we've launched the new Oppla, but we'd like to ensure the development process takes account of this and includes facility for handling transactions when the time comes.

ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- **UIX design.** We want to work with somebody who relishes making websites that are a enjoyable and intuitive for users and accessible to all.
- **Drupal 7 – Drupal 9 migration.** We want to ensure a smooth migration of content and users from the existing website to a new streamlined Drupal 9 site.
- **PHP and custom module development.** The Oppla API is a custom development in PHP and we have a bespoke Drupal module that allows other sites to access the API.
- **Domain access and translation.** Some content is specific to a single domain name, while some is shared across several domain names, some of which use translation.
- **Organic groups.** Organic groups are used in several different contexts on Oppla including project groups with interaction with linked file databases and for interaction on project websites.
- **Managing complex sites with many content types.** There are many content types on Oppla, including some that are associated with particular domains, user profiles and organic groups.

DESIRABLE SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE

- **Spatial data management.** Spatial data within Oppla is mostly simple point locations but we are developing applications with more complex spatial data.
- **Meeting facilitation.** Experience organising and chairing development meetings online and in-person would be useful.
- **Multilingual communication.** Most of our international work uses English as the primary language but we are working to increase the language skills of our team.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

- **Enjoys working in small teams.** We are a small friendly team and would like to work with somebody who enjoys working with people with different skills.
- **Happy to work with designers.** Our graphic designers and UX consultant have some great ideas for the new Oppla site.
- **Expert but patient.** We need somebody who is a Drupal expert but who is happy to work with people who are less technical but have good ideas.
- **From any background.** We are totally open to working with anybody regardless of age, race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief.
- **Good references.** We would like to speak to at least two previous clients or colleagues.