

CUSTOMER STORY

Southern Water strengthen route selection process, with Optioneer™

Southern Water had limited resources and time to conduct a thorough selection process for a national park project. Optioneer analysed millions of routes, enabling the company to quickly identify 5 strong route contenders for final evaluation and consent.

2.5 million

route scenarios analysed

50+

types of route constraints evaluated by Optioneer

12

route corridors identified with 5 shortlisted

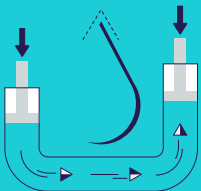
About



2,000+
Employees



UK
Based



10,000+km
Water pipelines

The challenge of managing a robust route selection process

Traditional engineering approaches that are used for water pipeline programmes are manual and time consuming, constraining the number of route options that can be studied.

Furthermore, with limited resources and time constraints, water companies cannot always collate sufficient data on prospective routes to make a comprehensive assessment of all or most possible options.

Typically only 2-3 candidates will be considered due to these limitations, making it difficult for Southern Water to defend their preferred pipeline route scenarios. This leads to delays, increased costs and reputational damage.

With a portfolio of water pipelines at different stages of development, Southern Water needed a solution to overcome the challenges they faced on key pipeline projects.

Specifically, Southern Water needed to reduce project delays and cost rises incurred from local opposition to proposed pipeline routes, whilst recognising the constraints of limited team resources.

The company was attracted to Optioneer as the platform can assess millions of prospective routes in less time with all the detail to put forward a strong application for planning consent.

How Southern Water used Optioneer

Southern Water identified prospective corridors and routes for a 15-20km pipeline by configuring environmental, social, logistical, engineering and cost parameters for Optioneer to evaluate.

With over 2.5 million route options identified, the platform initially shortlisted 12 relevant corridors with full reporting on key environmental and safety risks such as proximity to population centres and protected sites. This enabled the team to further narrow the list to 5 preferred scenarios.

Optioneer became a single reference point for all data, site feedback and key decisions on the pipeline project, helping the team to streamline collaboration online and accelerate the overall project development process.



Consistent set of assumptions linked to internal guidance for all projects



Identify & assess route options **in hours, not weeks**



Flexible & rapid iteration



We have had a great experience using Optioneer to assess route options for a new pipeline scheme. Normally, it would take us months to review and iterate on multiple routes through environmentally sensitive and protected locations, but we've been able to complete our work in weeks using Optioneer. The visual heat maps that it generates show all of the options that we have explored and we will use them to explain the choices that we've made to safeguard the environment to local stakeholders.

Tamzyn Janes, Project Manager, Southern Water



The outcome

- **Training was simple and only took a couple of hours.**
- **Southern Water successfully completed their pilot of Optioneer, running a route selection process that identified over 2.5 million options and resulted in a final shortlist of 5 contenders.**
- **The company saved significant time and improved decision making by consolidating all route scenario analysis to Optioneer. The platform became a single reference point for all data and feedback, and helped to streamline collaboration across teams on the 20km water pipeline programme.**

