

River Severn Bore Project

National Grid Transco

Gloucestershire

Term: 6 months

Value: £1.5m



This 31.5million River Severn Directional Drill Project was undertaken as a joint venture between NGT, Morrison and Stockton Pipelines.

For over 40 years, the 3.8km pipeline in Gloucestershire had been deemed unfeasible, but after three years of detailed planning, the project went ahead in 2002. Construction of the pipeline was required to reinforce the supply of natural gas to the Forest of Dean. This planning culminated in a new European record being set for Horizontal Directional Drilling.

The 3.8km project was achieved by laying 1.6km of 300mm steel pipe 50 feet under the River Severn, crossing the Sharpness to Gloucester ship canal and the Cardiff to Gloucester railway line. This was connected to 600m of 315mm polyethylene pipeline laid across fields on the Sharpness bank and 1600m of 315 polyethylene pipeline across fields on the Lydney bank either side of the Severn Estuary.

Morrison undertook all the site preparation works relating to access roads, compounds, hard standings and pipe delivery. Morrison procured and managed the drilling subcontract to undertake the river crossing and worked closely with Stockton Pipelines to complete this challenging project successfully.

Stockton Pipelines undertook the pipe stringing along the easement on the Lydney side, coating, testing, horizontal directional drilling and pipe pulling.

The key to the success of this project was the detailed and thorough planning undertaken by all parties. As with many major engineering achievements of this nature, the project was some considerable time in the feasibility and planning phases and a relatively short period of time in the construction phase on site.