>The papers reads more as a review

The reviewer is correct that there is an element of review in the paper, which is explicitly stated both in the abstract, and later, when the case study is described. Such as:

> "Each method, applied individually, demonstrated improvement on current industry processes. Combined application resulted in further improvements; including quicker, and more localised, burst main location."

The work underpinning this paper was heavily supported by the water industry with a view to promoting innovation and new, more efficient, distribution management practice; and this has influenced the structure of this particular paper.

>and to deeply comment on the paper one should further read all cited references

A reader with the interest and time could consult all the cited references. Although appropriate literature from other sources is cited, from the authors these include peer reviewed journal papers in:

American Society of Civil Engineers Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management

IWA journal of Hydroinformatics

Water Science and Technology

Urban Water

Drinking Water Engineering and Science

However, this paper seeks to bring together the various diverse techniques, findings and lessons gleaned from a large project and a number of different researchers. The succinct and informative format allows fellow practitioners and industry professionals to determine whether they wish to read all the supporting background material and, if they do, directs them accordingly.

>Throughout the paper several different methods are presented and, at the end, their hypothetical use is presented

The combination of the optimum instrumentation location method (which utilises the hydraulic modelling), and automated data analysis method, as presented in this paper is for real world examples. Hence, the work clearly goes beyond the hypothetical.

>As is both the scientific quality and significance of the work are difficult to evaluate

As described above, the reviewer (or other interested reader) is directed to the necessary literature.

>More data needs to be included in the new paper so that it can be read and commented

We disagree with this comment. 'More data' is very general and will not necessarily provide elucidation for the intended reader. The paper does summarise some findings from other papers (these are appropriately referenced and not claimed to be new) but there are also new results, such as in section 3.3. Overall, the paper presents a fusion of techniques to evidence the transformation that is now possible for the operation and management of water distribution systems.

>Specific comments:

>1) Page 274 (lines 1-27). Are the data discussed here presented in Machell et al.,**2010?**

Yes, as appropriately referenced line 26 p273

>2) Page 274 (line 5). Why did you choose the 30 min interval?

The 30 minute interval was chosen as a result of data provision frequency (GPRS data was down loaded every thirty minutes, at 15 minute resolution hence two time steps obtained).

This is considered on lines 5-7 p274:

> "The 30min interval between simulations was appropriate for this work but could have been reduced; the lower limit being dictated by the time taken to capture, transfer, and pre-process raw data."

>Several similar remarks could be done

But were not, and have not been detailed for any further comment.

>and they add to the fact that you cite excessively results obtained in other **papers**

As previously articulated, there is an element of review and top level summary for industry practitioners here which the reviewer has clearly failed to appreciate the value of.

>Similar comments could be done for other sections of the paper

But were not, and have not been detailed for any further comment.

3) Figure 1. I find difficult to read and interpret 3D plots

3D plots are an effective and often used tool. Their use here is an effective and efficient method of complex data presentation such that it can be readily interpreted.

4) Figure 5. Why have the authors chosen to present the data obtained at 10h45?

It is simply an example; any time could have been chosen.

The time is included in the legend to be fully explicit with regard to what is shown in the figure.