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Mersey Gateway UK

Client: Halton Borough Council
Architect: Knight Architects
Consulting Engineer: Ramboll / CH2M Hill

Programme: 2006-17

The £600m Mersey Gateway is a major new crossing of 2.4km between Runcorn and Widnes, to provide significantly increased local and regional highway connectivity and relieve congestion around the existing Silver Jubilee Bridge.

The reference design proposes a unique composition for a major cable-stayed bridge of three towers and two equal main spans of 300m. The 120m tall central tower is 20m shorter than

the outer two, with the position of all three being an optimum combination of span configurations, minimised impact within the environmentally sensitive estuary and an overall maximum height set by the approach to the nearby Liverpool Airport. The singular towers are positioned centrally with a single plane of paired stay cables.

In addition to their role as designer, Knight Architects led the design through

CABE Design Review, prior to successfully achieving planning consent, and later coordinated the production of a detailed guide governing visual and landscape aspects of the entire 9km corridor. The practice was part of the Client Procurement Team.