The Mersey Gateway is a new six-lane tolled highway crossing of 2.4km between Runcorn and Widnes, part of a £1.86bn project which provides significantly improved local and regional highway connectivity and relieves congestion around the existing Silver Jubilee Bridge.

The distinctive design has a unique composition for a major 1km-long cable-stayed bridge of three towers and two equal main spans of 300m, with the 80m-tall central tower shorter than the outer two (110m and 125m). The position of all three towers is 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 concept designer, Knight Architects led the design through CABE Design Review, prior to successfully achieving TWAO consent, and later prepared a detailed guide governing visual and landscape aspects of the entire 9.5km-long corridor for the Design & Build contract. The practice remained part of the Client Procurement Team and advised on design quality throughout construction.

Client: Halton Borough Council
Architect: Knight Architects
Consulting Engineer: Ramboll / CH2M Hill
Awards: ICE North West Award 2018, RICS North West Award 2018
Programme: 2006-17

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