



Knowledge



Skills



Vocabulary

Widnes is on the River Mersey and it is joined to Runcorn by three bridges.

**Runcorn Gap** is the narrowest part of the Mersey estuary and this is why there are so many bridges here

There is a railway bridge that opened in 1868. It is called **Ethelfleda Bridge** and there used to be a footbridge next to it

There is a road bridge called **The Silver Jubilee bridge** that opened in 1961. This is currently closed for repairs.

There is a toll bridge called **The Mersey Gateway** that opened in 2017.

There used to be another bridge called a transporter bridge. It had a steam-powered cable transporter that carried four cars at a time across the river. It opened in 1905 and closed in 1961.

You can also cross the Mersey by a ferry or a tunnel from Liverpool to the Wirral

Crossing the Mersey was historically and still is an important **trade route**.

Silver Jubilee Bridge



Mersey Gateway Bridge

**Runcorn Gap** - the part of the River between Widnes and Runcorn

**Transporter Bridge**- a bridge with a suspended moving platform, used for transporting vehicles across water.

**Toll**-a payable charge

**Trade route** - The route taken by goods when they are transported

**Primary source** - First-hand accounts from people who had a direct connection with it

**Secondary Source** - Information that was created later by someone who did not experience it first-hand or participate in the events

**Estuary** - the tidal mouth of a large river,



Widnes transporter bridge