



# Knight Architects

Press Release  
24 February 2022

## NEW WEAR FOOTBRIDGE: DESIGN TEAM ANNOUNCED FOR NEXT PHASE

Knight Architects is part of the VolkerStevin contractor-led design team appointed to deliver Sunderland's new Wear crossing - a £31m pedestrian and cycle crossing, connecting both sides of Riverside Sunderland. VolkerStevin was named as the partner to deliver Sunderland's stunning bridge in September 2021.

The bridge and infrastructure specialist is excited to be leading the detailed architectural design, alongside partners global engineering and consulting firm Arup and Newcastle-based landscape architects, Colour. Focus will be on encouraging maximum active mobility in and around Riverside Sunderland by carefully considering the user experience of the bridge in its surroundings.

Knight Architects will bring the following expertise:

- Design to compliment the adjacent Wearmouth and Monkwearmouth bridges in the historic River Wear surroundings.
- Integration with new areas of public realm either side of the River Wear to create a continuous, welcoming and high-quality environment which encourages public life.
- Design which is inclusive and accessible, providing a safe and enjoyable experience for all, ultimately Improving quality of life.

The new bridge, which is expected to open in 2024, is a central part of Sunderland's new Riverside Park and will provide the Riverside Sunderland Masterplan with key connectivity between new neighbourhoods and the civic centre, as well as access to biodiverse greenspace of the riverside.

The crossing will establish a vital link between Keel Square and the Stadium of Light, on the axis of the Keel line public artwork. The bridge will integrate cutting-edge technology and creative lighting to create engaging interactive experiences for those who cross it and 'really bring to life the city's digital ambitions'.

Councillor Graeme Miller, leader of Sunderland City Council, said:

"We're hugely ambitious for Sunderland, and this is the latest in a long line of transformational projects that we're advancing with at pace at Riverside Sunderland. Our city centre is transforming with £500m worth of development projects progressing, and we're delighted to see this important project take a significant step forward."

Simon Harker, senior bridge designer at Knight Architects, said:

"We are excited to be designing the new Wear footbridge to provide new experiences of active mobility and for all to enjoy the green parkland and public spaces of Riverside Sunderland. The new river crossing for people walking and cycling will be a key contributor to sustainable connectivity and high quality of life at Riverside Sunderland."

**ENDS\_**



## Notes to editors:

### Key data

Location: Sunderland, UK  
Local authority: Sunderland City Council  
Type of project: Pedestrian and cycle bridge  
Architect: Knight Architects with Arup  
Landscape architect: Colour  
Main contractor: VolkerStevin  
Completion date: 2024  
Total cost: £31M

### About Knight Architects

Knight Architects is an architectural consultancy specialising exclusively in the field of bridge and infrastructure design, where it is recognised as a market leader within the UK and internationally.

Formed in 2006, the practice is founded on the unique experience, skills and passion for bridge design which Martin Knight has built up over more than twenty years in leading architecture and engineering practice. The award-winning studio now comprises a skilled team with extensive experience and market-leading skills working on world-class projects around the world, yet it remains true to its founding principles: that good design is vital and that memorable and beautiful solutions are based on a clear understanding of function, context, budget and time.

The practice believes that infrastructure is a very important component of both the built and natural environments – highly visible forms that have a significant impact on their locality – and its work has been recognised with awards for bringing community benefits, as well as for design, and received the Specialist Consultant of the Year Award at the NCE / ACE Consultants of the Year Awards 2015; the first time an architectural practice has been recognised in these engineering-focused awards. The practice was awarded BD Infrastructure Architect of the Year 2017 and most recently, has been awarded a Structural Award 2019 and International Civic Trust Award 2020 for its Kienlesbergbrücke in Ulm, Germany.

Knight Architects is an RIBA Chartered Practice.

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