

Dover District Council thanks the Planning Inspectorate for the opportunity to comment on the Rule 6 letter (received 19th September 2025) for the Sea Link Project.

The Council provides the written submission below on the procedure for the examination and does not wish to be heard orally at the preliminary meeting, but will be observing the meeting via the livestream. The Council also does not wish to be heard orally at the open floor hearings but will observe OFH1 via the livestream and may attend OFH2 in person to observe the points raised.

The Council has no other comments on the procedure for the examination set out in the Rule 6 letter, but would support the use of virtual methods for all issue specific hearings (ISH), especially where these are expected to be held in a more central location later into the examination.

The Council notes the route walked by the ExA at their site visit in June 2026 and the notes of those visits in Kent. All five members of the ExA carried out the USI which inspected views of the site from the south (accessed via Sandwich Road, passing Richborough Castle and driving along Whitehouse Drove. The Council would suggest the ExA visit the Claudian Gateway at Richborough Roman Fort (English Heritage Site) from which wider landscape views in the direction of the proposed development can be appreciated. The Council does not have any further suggested locations for site inspections (either ASI or USI) for consideration by the ExA.