

Ballygrehan,
Templeboy,
Co Sligo.
F91 PD62

An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1

RE: Planning Application for Proposed Wind Farm Development SSE Crumhach Wind Farm, Co. Sligo. An Coimisiún Pleanála - Case reference: PAX21.324561. Expression of concerns/issues arising - Mary T Finnegan concerning lands at Leharrow, Dromore West Co Sligo. Folio - SL 10702 refers.

It has come to my attention in recent weeks that the proposed upgrading of the extant wind farms at Duneil and Kingsmountain to a 102 MW farm called Crumhach Wind Farm under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, is likely to impact negatively on a small holding (folio number –SL10702) that I am the registered owner of at Leharrow, Dromore West, Co Sligo. Map a – Appendix 1 refers.

Crucially, the lands are adjacent to the 90 degree narrow bend on L63072 at Lehaarrow, Dromore West. Map b – Appendix 1 outlines. This is referred to as Location 17 in the submission document Map c – Appendix 1 refers. My concerns and the issues, I request to be addressed forthwith are as follows:-

(i) It is acknowledged by the parties involved in the construction and transportation of these numerous abnormally large loads (120 loads – application) that the physical turning radius required for an articulated abnormal load vehicle of this size (74m rotor blades and 77.8m vehicle- application) can not be safely achieved within the public road boundary alone. Any attempt to navigate this corner will inevitably result in mechanical over-sail and encroachment on my private property – Location 17 map. More importantly, it is likely to

result in long term structural damage to my land and drainage systems. As can be seen from the maps, there are currently two streams/ rivers that run through my lands and merge with another stream at the critical juncture - exactly at the 90 degree angle where the impact of these abnormally heavy loads is at its greatest. There is a small bridge there at the moment as can be seen from image a – Appendix 1. It is my opinion that this bridge is fundamentally unsuited to support numerous abnormal heavy loads without catastrophic structural compromise both to the bridge and the extant three rivers /streams that merge at this point. While this application is reasonable on generic impact, there is little to no specifics and this is particularly evident when it comes to Location 17. Are there any plans to fortify the extant bridge to accommodate these abnormally heavy loads? Has any impact assessment/ report being conducted to ascertain the medium /long term effects of these abnormally heavy loads on the bridge, land/ rivers/streams adjacent to the roadway at Location 17? I have no doubt that the impact of these numerous abnormally heavy loads poses a serious concern resulting in negative structural impact on extant ground conditions (eroding the stability of the soil) and in particular impacting the stream/river that runs along the L63072 on my private property. As can be seen from Map d – appendix 1, this trajectory of the stream/river adjacent to the roadway has already been altered to facilitate the conveyance of the previous windmill loads. Likewise, there was an overrun hardstand constructed at that time as can be seen from the maps. It is my understanding that this overrun hardstand is inadequate for the loads proposed for this upgrading but this aspect is dealt with vaguely in the application and no specifics are included. This needs to be clarified. There is no doubt that the negative impact posed by these numerous abnormal heavy loads will give rise to issues and the necessity for remedial work in the future. It is important for me to highlight this issue at this stage and therefore, I request a full and thorough assessment resulting in remedial work if same is deemed necessary prior to the granting of permission to proceed with the conveyance of these numerous abnormal heavy loads. Furthermore, I request that when permission is granted, clear enforceable conditions protecting my lands and drainage capacity is ensured.

(ii) After purchasing this land in 2020, I cleared the streams/ rivers but in the winter time, these streams/ drains do come under pressure. Photos taken by a neighbour in 2024 depicts the extent of the flooding issue. As can be seen from images 1 – 3 – Appendix 1, the extant bridge and lands came under pressure from flooding, reinforcing the concerns I have already expressed. Now, I fear that as a result of the pressure exerted by these numerous abnormally heavy loads, there will

be long term damage done to (i)the bridge, (ii) the soil/ground alongside the stream and (iii) extant drainage system resulting in flooding of my lands, other lands in the vicinity and indeed the roadway and possibly the two nearby dwellings in future years. It is not acceptable to fail to acknowledge this salient issue in this application. The extant flood risk in this specific area is highlighted in the Sligo County Council report – Strategic Flood Risk Assessment. It is acknowledged in the application that Location 17 will require engineered accommodation works but this is vague and lacks specific detail. This critical element needs clarification prior to progression.

(iii) Travelling along this route on a daily, I note a lot of power lines at Location 17 and again, it is my opinion that some of these will have to be moved to facilitate the transportation of these numerous abnormally heavy loads. Has there been any consultation with the property owners in the vicinity in this regard? It is likely that there will be serious disruption to power in the area for a period, perhaps, extended. I don't see anything in the application online referring or dealing with this issue. Can this issue be clarified, please?

(iv) I find it interesting that no one has yet contacted, consulted or sought my permission as the landowner regarding the likely negative impact this transport operation will have on my land. I am specifically referring to the likely encroachment on my lands by the overhang of the sweeping arc of these loads, the resultant ground pressure and the long term negative impact on the ground, soil composition, drainage system, extant bridge and future potential for flooding. Furthermore, the potential temporary removal of the boundary fencing on my property has not been requested. It is my understanding that most landowners who are likely to be impacted along the proposed route have been approached months ago; some have even signed agreements as can be seen from the application.

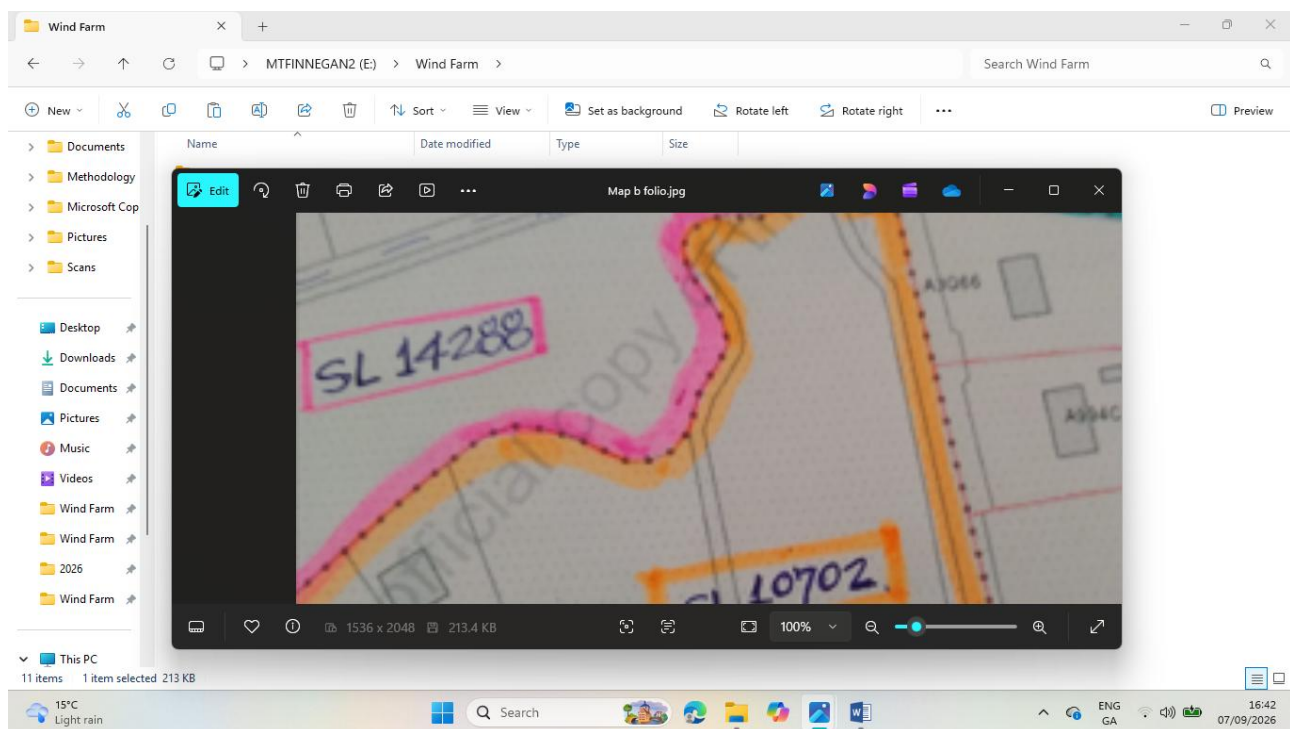
While I whole heartedly welcome the upgrading of the wind farm, I would caution against any assumption of public or private right to utilise, impact, or encroach upon my land without formal, written landowner engagement and indemnity /compensation agreements being put in place. At this stage, I have not invoked any legal guidance/advice but I reserve my right to seek legal advice and will consider taking injunctive action if my concerns are not addressed. In the interim, I await your response to clarify how you intend to address these issues.

Thanking you.

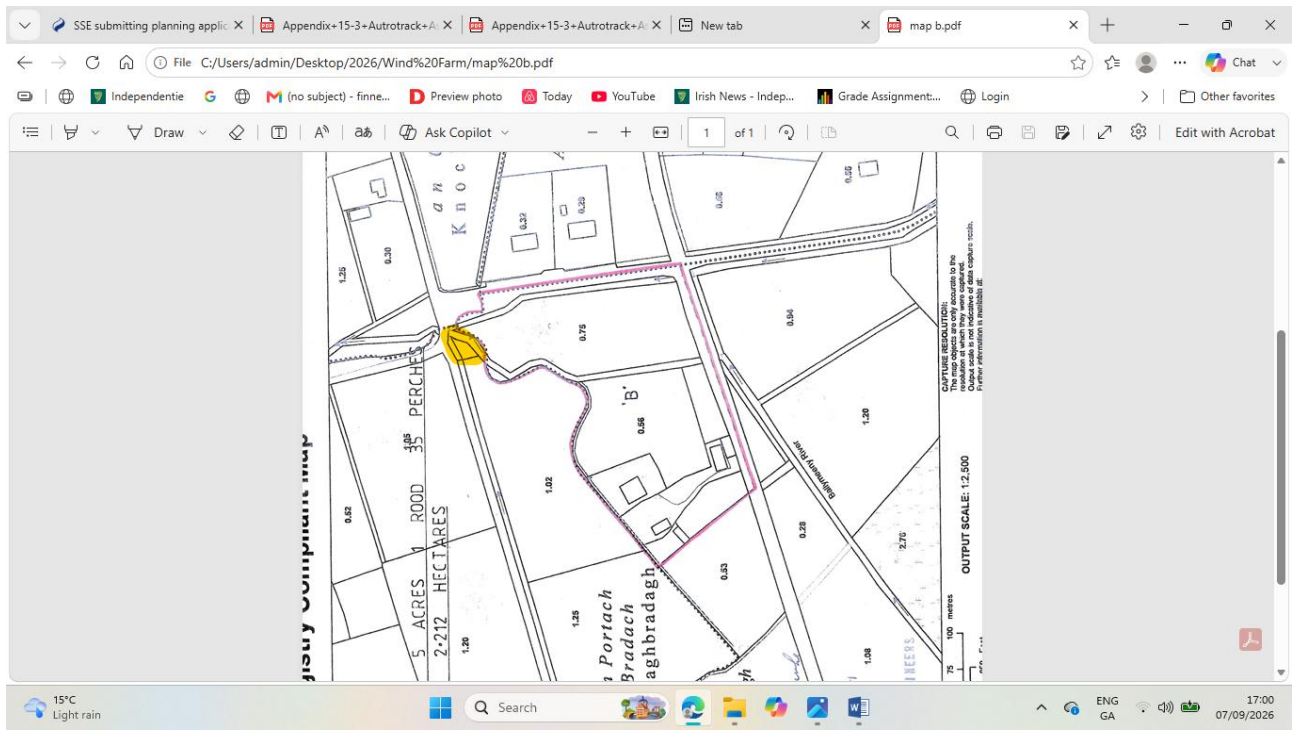
(Mary T Finnegan)

Doctor of Business Administration.

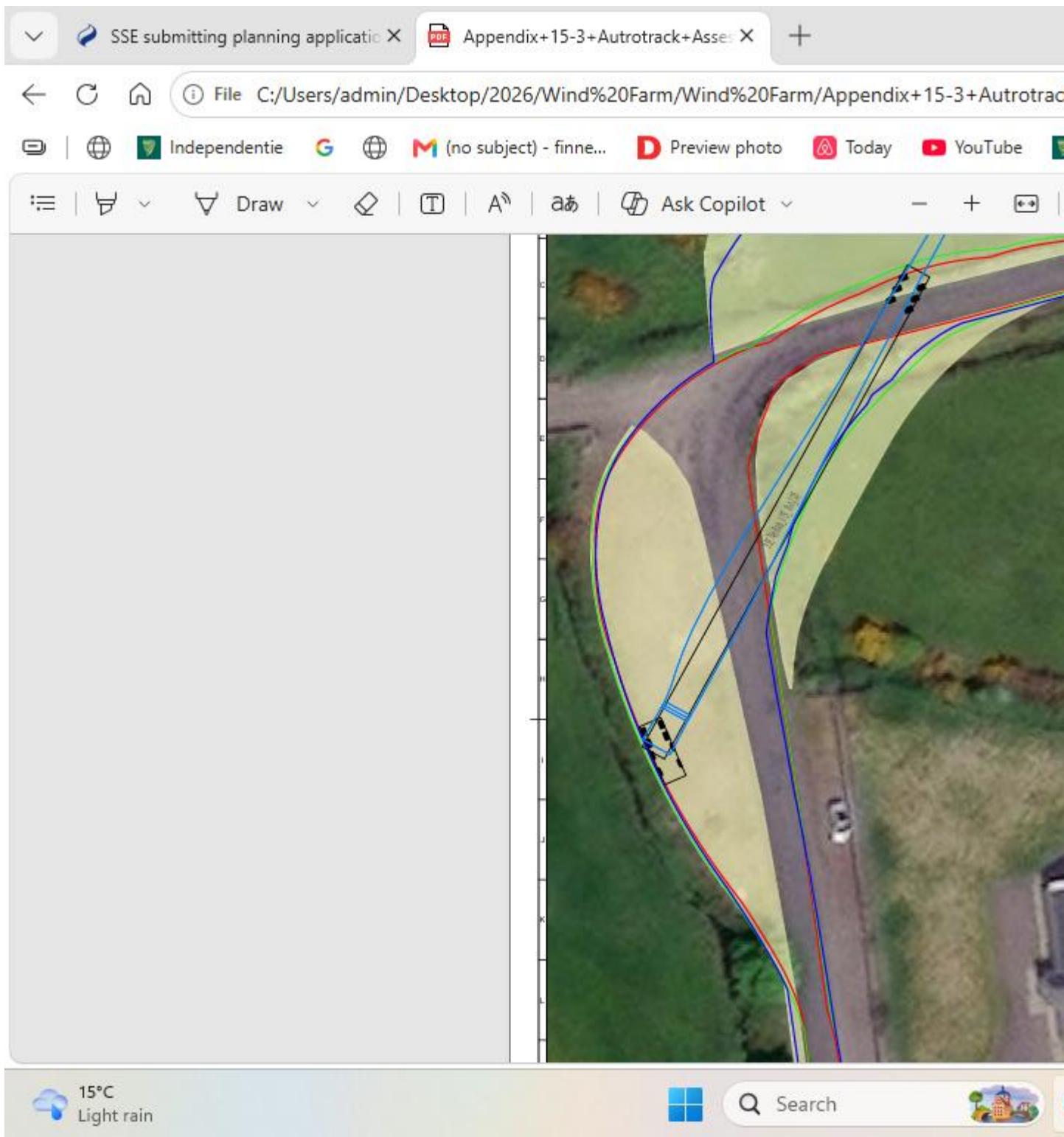
Appendix 1 – Map a



Appendix 1 – map b



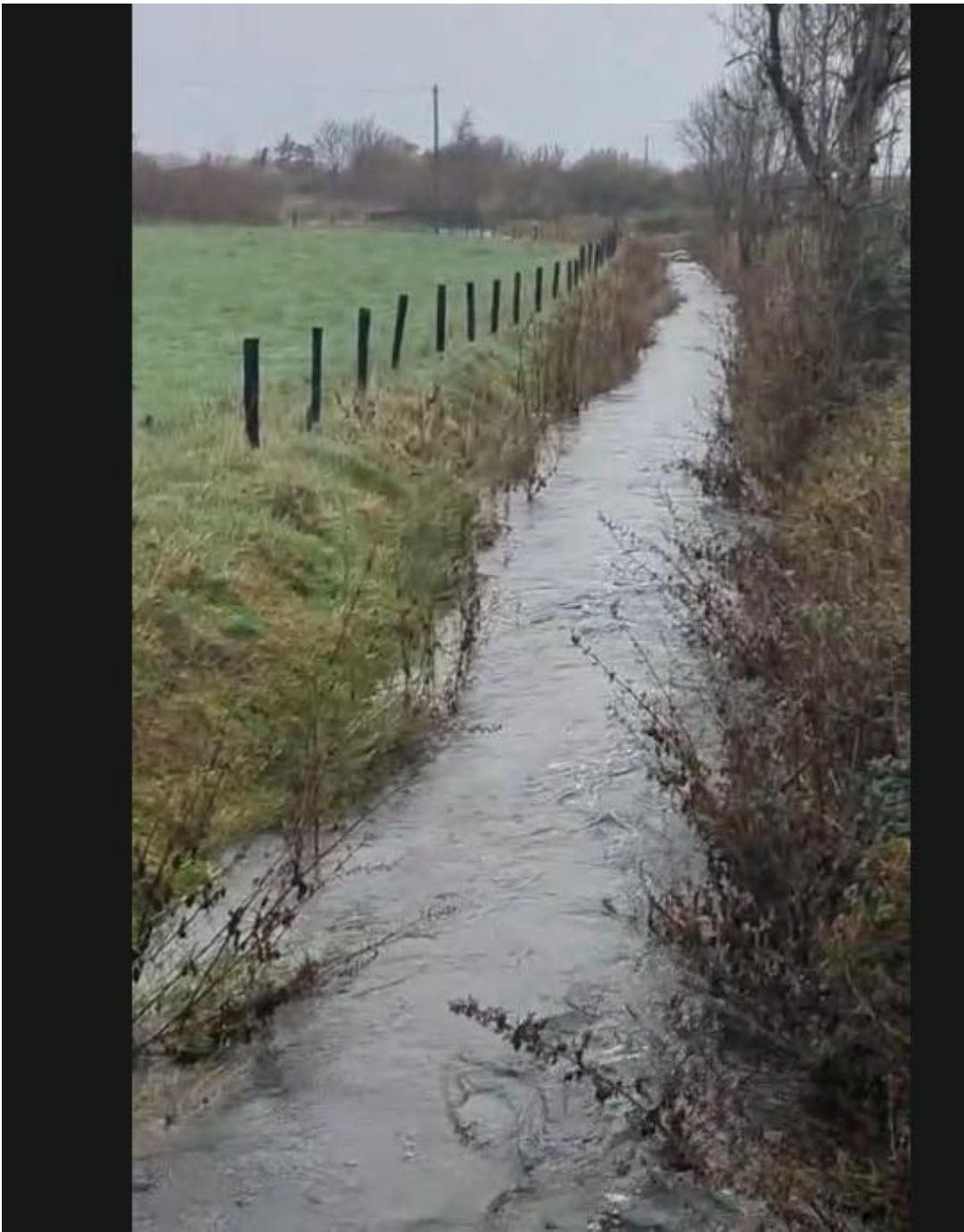
Appendix 1 – Map c



Appendix 1 – image 1



Appendix 1- image 2



Appendix 1 – image 3



