APPENDIX 13.2: ASSESSMENT PRO-FORMA for Visual Impacts on Features of Cultural Heritage Interest

The following pro-forma or prompt sheet was used to assess the various factors of significance at each monument:

Site	*1*	*Site No.*	As previously established for each monument in the EIA.
	2	*Site Name*	As shown in the National Monuments Record
	3	*Site visit conditions*	The brightness and the clarity of atmospheric conditions during the site visits. This would affect the visibility and the assessment results.
	4	*Monument description*	Brief description of the type of monument
	5	*Orientation of the Windfarm*	Direction in which the windfarm lies in relation to the monument.
Visual sensitivity	*6*	*Designation*	Scheduled ancient monument (SAM) or other.
	7	*Cultural heritage significance*	As previously established for each monument in the EIA.
	8	*Monument morphology*	The morphology or form of a monument is a relevant factor. The proposed development might not affect the setting of *all* of a monument, in the sense that there may be parts of the monument from which the development cannot be seen. This might occur where a monument has an internal space that can be entered by the visitor (eg a building or a chambered tomb), thus shutting out views to the wind farm. In contrast, some other monuments can only be experienced externally (eg a standing stone) and are therefore more open to the effects of visual impact. For buried remains (eg a cropmark site), the issue of visual impact could be considered less important, since the monument is not visible at ground level anyway. Monuments are therefore categorised as being *upstanding* or *buried*, and *open* or *roofed*.

	19	*Amenity value* *9.1 Geographical remoteness* *9.2 Ease of access* *9.3 State of survival* *9.4 Promotional/ interpretive material* *9.5 Visitor frequency* *9.6 Published references*	The value of a monument's amenity or use refers to its level of public use, who uses it, how it is used, how frequently it is visited, and how its use might be expected to change in the future. This could also extend to the frequency with which it is photographed by its users, since the visual impact of a development would also be manifested in photographic portrayals of the monument. The amenity value or public use is affected by a variety of factors including, for example, geographical remoteness, ease of physical access, monument type, state of survival, the existence of any promotional or interpretive aids, and the degree to which it is referred to in studies or gazetteers.

Visual sensitivity **(continued)**	*10*	*Significance of original/former monument setting* *10.1 Type of usage* *10.2 Importance of views* *10.3 Relationship and indivisibility with other key sites* *10.4 Monument scale* *10.5 Importance of view towards development*	The significance of the original setting refers to the original perceived importance of a monument's setting to its builders and users. Often monuments interacted as part of a system with other contemporary elements in the landscape. In some cases, visual setting was thus a significant element in the siting of monuments. Generally the role of site and setting was potentially of higher importance in the case of ritual monuments (eg barrow cemeteries), strategic and defensive monuments, and monuments designed to convey power or high status (eg hillforts and castles). However the visual setting of farms and of industrial buildings was usually less important due to their primary economic functions (although their location would be an important factor in terms of economics and proximity to natural resources). Similarly commercial premises were sited according to demographics and economics, with setting being less relevant. Therefore the type of usage of a monument and whether views to and from it were relevant to its function are factors in this assessment. The scale of the monument (ie whether it is an extensive, landscape archaeological site, or whether it is small and discrete)

			is also a relevant factor in assessing whether views across the landscape were formerly important during the site's use. In particular, it is most useful to assess whether the view towards Fairburn was important when the archaeological site was in use.
	11	*Current value of monument setting*	The current character of a monument's setting is of relevance to the assessment, since alterations to the setting may already have severed or impaired its relationship to the historical landscape. For example, if the area around a monument has been planted with forestry, its setting could be regarded as being of reduced importance. Sightlines between monuments and other associated features in the historic landscape may already been compromised due to afforestation or modern constructions (eg masts or buildings).

Magnitude of impact	*12*	*Proximity to development*	The greater the distance the monument is from the proposed development site, the more diminished the visual effects will generally be. There are various published guidelines and opinions regarding the distances at which wind turbines may be considered to act as a visually intrusive element in the landscape (summarised in SNH 2002 *'Visual Assessment of Windfarms: Best Practice'*). However, some of these recommendations are now out of date as they were based on smaller turbines. As the size of turbines being built is progressively increasing, there are no up-to-date guidelines about the effects of turbines 100m or more in height (the turbines proposed at Fairburn will be a maximum height of 107 m from ground level to blade tip). However, the Scottish Executive (*PAN 45*, 2002) issued the following guidance on visibility of turbines with a tower height of >70m and rotor diameters of >80m: at <2 km turbines are likely to be a prominent feature; at 2-5 km turbines are relatively prominent; at 5-15 km turbines are only prominent in clear visibility – seen as part of the wider landscape; at 15-30 km turbines are only seen in very clear visibility – a minor element in the landscape.

	13	*Number of visible turbines based on topography*	In addition to the distance of a monument from the wind farm, the size and number of turbines, and their layout (ie how spread or clustered they are), determines the potential scale of the development when viewed from the monument. The number of turbines visible from a monument is determined partly by topography. The visibility of turbines from each monument based on topography can be predicted initially by consulting a ZVI ('Zones of Visual Influence') map, as undertaken during the EIA. Note, however, that the ZVI maps are based on topography (as recorded by contours) and do not take account of built or planted features, or of micro-topographic features.
	14	*Backdrop*	The backdrop of the wind farm, when viewed from each monument, is also a factor in determining how visible the turbines will be. In many cases the backdrop will be sky, due to the general elevation of wind farms, however in some cases the backdrop might be a vegetated slope or other landform.
	15	*Complexity of landscape*	The more visual complex a landscape is, the less the new development will intrude into it. This is because where a landscape is visually complex, the eye will be distracted by other features and will not focus exclusively on the wind turbines. Visual complexity describes the extent to which a landscape varies visually and the extent to which there are various land types, land uses, and built features producing variety in the landscape.