

Press release by Appleby Environment 22/10/2018

Appleby Group Outraged about HS2's plans to demolish the Old Rectory

Buried in the small print of the recently launched Environmental Statement (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/745211/HS2_Phase_2b_WDES_Volume_2_LA03_Appleby_Parva_to_Ashby-de-la-Zouch.pdf) are plans to demolish the Old Rectory at Appleby. This is a grade II listed, Georgian building which was the village vicarage dating from 1807. The view of the front is a very prominent, well known, sight as one travels along the A44 towards the M42. It is also enjoyed from various village footpaths.

The building is also important to Appleby's social history. Aubrey Moore lived there and wrote a history of the village called 'A Son of the Rectory'. He was a descendent of the brother of Sir John Moore, who built the school at Appleby. Aubrey Moore was for many years the Chair of the Trustees of the Foundation and oversaw the village primary school moving into the building where it remains today.

Sonia Liff, Chair of Appleby Environment, said "HS2 have been very underhand about this proposal. In July 2017 when they announced that they were going back to the route close to the motorway, the line looked very close to the Old Rectory. I pointed this out to them, explained the importance of the building and asked them what their intentions were. The engineer said that they could make the cutting steeper on that side so that it wouldn't impact on the building. The next map they issued in July 2018 showed this and I discussed with the engineer how visible the line would be in the background to the building. The current map, just released as part of the Environmental Statement, shows the line clear of the building and doesn't give any indication that it will be demolished. This is all most people will see if they check on the route or go to a consultation event. However, in the small print it says that the building is on land required for the construction. HS2's own assessment is that the loss of these listed buildings would have a **major adverse effect** (para 9.4.10)".

HS2 own the Old Rectory having purchased it from MP Andrew Bridgen. Appleby Environment call on HS2 to rethink this unnecessary destruction of our history and environment. They also ask all concerned residents to attend the 'information' event being run by HS2 on 1st November in Measham to object to this proposal.