



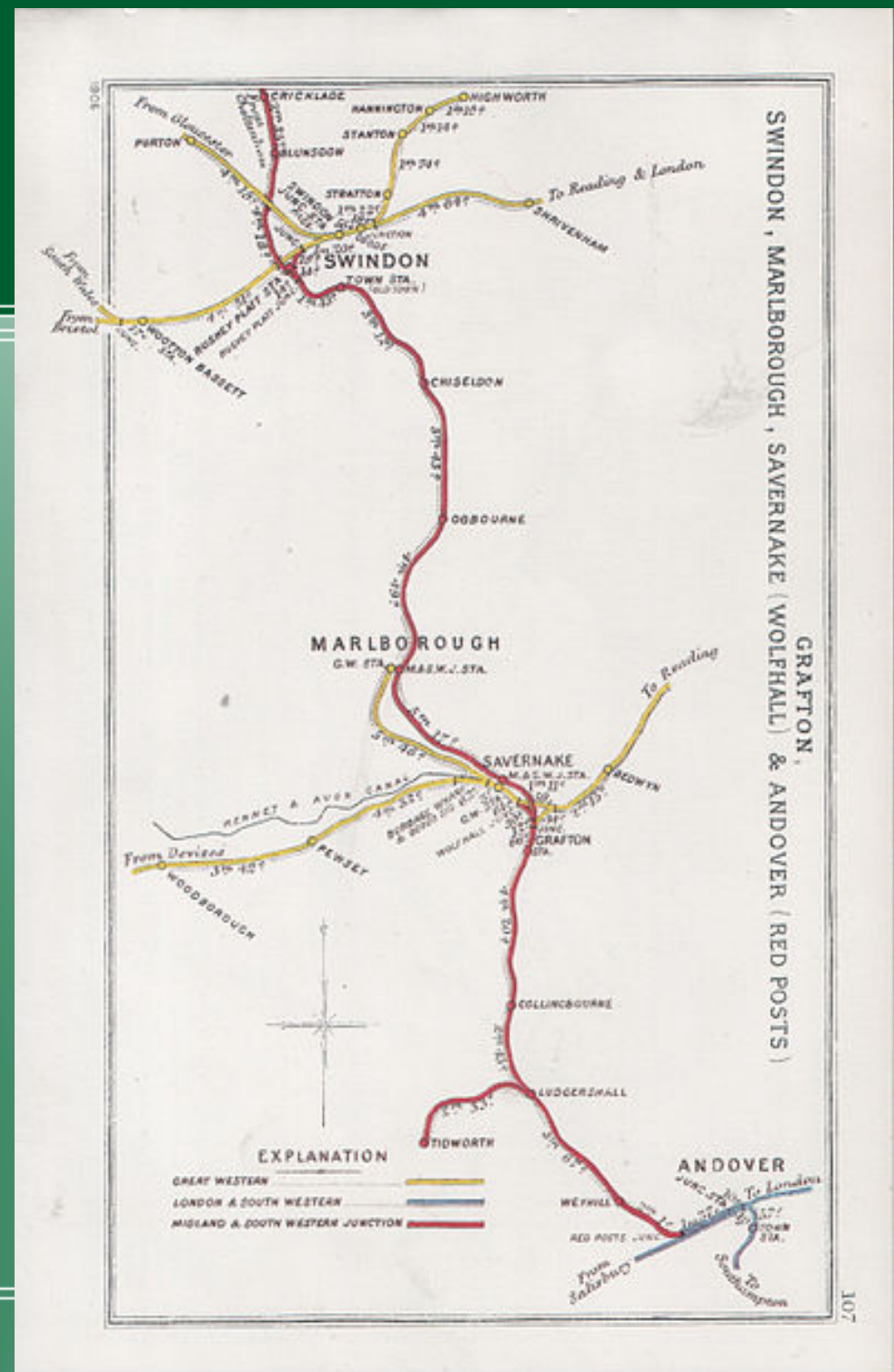
Transition
Marlborough
we can make a difference

The history of Marlborough's railway network

- The first line from Savernake to Marlborough opened in 1864.
- In 1881, the Swindon, Marlborough and Andover Railway opened and was absorbed by the Midland and South Western Junction Railway in 1884.
- By 1923, both lines had been absorbed by the Great Western Railway.
- Marlborough (GWR) station closed in 1933 and passenger services were re-routed to the former M&SWJR station. The GWR became part of British Railways in 1948.
- Passenger services to Marlborough were withdrawn in 1961 and goods services in 1964.

Marlborough's rail network in 1914

Great Western (yellow) and Midland & South-Western (red) railway lines linked Marlborough with Devizes, Reading, Andover and Swindon



Restoring the railway line to Marlborough

In August/September 2013,
Transition Marlborough's
Transport Group walked most of
the route of the old Great Western
track, between Savernake Road
and Marlborough Business Park.

Restoring the line to Marlborough

Existing track
leading to Bedwyn
station, viewed
from the bridge in
Savernake Road



Restoring the line to Marlborough

View of tree-lined embankment from Savernake Road



Restoring the line to Marlborough

Remains of
railway bridge,
near Hat Gate



Restoring the line to Marlborough

Walking on top
of the tree-lined
ex-railway
embankment at
Hat Gate



Restoring the line to Marlborough

Gap in the
embankment
near Park Farm



Restoring the line to Marlborough

Intact bridge
allowing
access to
adjacent fields
at Culley's
Farm



Restoring the line to Marlborough

Cow sheds and a slurry pit have replaced the embankment at Wernham Farm



Restoring the line to Marlborough

Tree-lined
embankment
continues
towards
Marlborough



Restoring the line to Marlborough

Tree-lined
embankment
running
alongside
Pewsey Road,
towards St
John's School



Restoring the line to Marlborough

Embankment
ends alongside
the main drive-
way into St John's
School



New route between St John's School and site of new housing estate

View from the
embankment
towards
Marlborough
Business
Park



New route between St Johns School and the site of the new housing estate

The Business
Park can be seen
in the distance
(there are some
derelict buildings
in the foreground)



Restoring the line to Marlborough

Salisbury Road,
opposite the
Business Park -
proposed site of
a housing estate
and
Marlborough's
new railway
station





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Conclusions

- Most of the 6 miles of old GW embankment, between Bedwyn station and St John's School, remains intact.
- There are no obstructions to prevent the building of a new embankment, between Pewsey Road and the Crown Estates' land opposite the Business Park.
- The supporting walls of the bridge at Hat Gate seem to be intact.
- A new bridge over the A346 is needed, just north of Leigh Hill Copse