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- Passenger services to Marlborough were withdrawn in 1961 and goods services in 1964.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
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
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