

Digital photos help you to record items for the time line. Either print them or try a digital version with *Word Smart Art* (<http://office.microsoft.com/en-gb/w/HA010336240.aspx>)



Exploring at Ropley



Ropley Station provides a range of inspirations for your time line.

- ‘Hug’ our 200 year old beech tree and imagine the changes it has witnessed from its lofty spot at the end of the picnic area.
- Explore the engine yard and list the numbers of all the engines under restoration. Investigate their history on the internet when you get home, full specifications of all our locomotives and rolling stock can be found on our web site in the Society pages.
- Take a stroll to The Meadow to see chalk downland habit and line side flora.
- Walk in the footsteps of Harry Potter on our Kings Cross Foot Bridge. Visit the display in the Carriage Restoration Workshop to learn more about Victorian engineering.
- Which buildings and bridges are original and which have been rebuilt here as part of the railway’s role in railway preservation?

MID HANTS RAILWAY LTD 'WATERCRESS LINE'

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Parents Fact Sheet



These notes are designed to help you and your child discover more on your Children’s University visit to the Watercress Line. As a Children’s University Learning Destination we hope you will find a visit to our railway stimulates your child’s interest in a wide variety of topics from:

- Victorians to vacuum brakes
- Red Admirals to restoration
- Boilers to beech trees

We have devised special Children’s University activity sheets for them to complete as part of their visit. The tasks are at three levels; please help your child to select the one that they will find enjoyable.

Printed copies of this guide and the activity sheets are available at Watercress Line stations, just show your passport for a free copy; or you can print a copy at home.



A Freedom of the Line ticket gives you all day travel and allows you to get on and off at the stations along the line.

Getting your Passport stamped

Visit the Information Office on the platform at Alresford station to get your passport stamped.



The learning objective of our Children's University work sheet is to explore and investigate the line, stations and operation of the Watercress Line. The choice of topic for your child's time line is completely up to them and can reflect their own interests.

- The set of photographs are intended to give you and your child a starting point for to explore each station.
- They can simply find an appropriate date for each item that interests them and draw them on the notes page. When they have enough they can transfer their favourites to make their own time line.
- There are three levels of discovery sheet to allow you to choose the appropriate depth of study for your child.
- Younger children can simply cut and stick the photos to make their time line.



Where to find more information. You will find information boards at all of our stations. Explore at Ropley Station if you want to get up close to the engines, view restoration in progress or visit our 200 year old beech tree.

Building your own Watercress Time Line

What can I discover?
You can discover when the Alton, Alresford and Watercress Railway was built in Victorian times and investigate how the line was opened for over 100 years, why it closed and how it then reopened as the Watercress Line. You can see engines, carriages, trucks, buildings, bridges, restoration projects and everything that keeps a heritage railway working.

What can I use to help me?
These photographs will give you clues to interesting places and things to look out for along the line but your topic is up to you. There are lots more ideas, hints and tips in the Children's University Parent's Fact Sheet.

What do I need to do?
Look out for information boards at the stations and visit the Engine Yard and Viewing Galleries at Ropley. Build your own time line on the next sheet. You could use these photographs, take your own or get sketching to record the things you want to put on your time line.

Need to get your Passport stamped?
Visit the Information Office on the platform at Alresford Station where the staff will be happy to stamp it for you.

Building your own Watercress Time Line

What can I discover?
You can discover when the railway was built and investigate how it runs today. You can see engines, tracks, buildings, and restoration projects.

What can I use to help me to make a time line?
These photographs will give you clues to interesting places and things to look out for along the line. Can you work out how old things are?

What do I need to do?
Look out for information boards at the stations and visit the Engine Yard and Viewing Galleries at Ropley. Build your own time line on the next sheet. You could use these photographs, take your own or get sketching to record the things you want to put on your time line.

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My notes and sketches

Watercress Time Line Level 3

This object or date is important or interesting because...

Would you like to share what you have discovered?
Send your time line to education@watercressline.co.uk and look out for it on our Tales of the Rails page on the web site www.watercressline.co.uk/learning&discovery

What should go on the time line? We encourage our Children's University visitors to be independent learners. Help them to choose a theme for their items either something that is new to them or a topic they are already interested in. Below are a few suggestions but with 10 miles of track and 4 stations to choose from there should be something to discover for everyone. Topic ideas for your time line:

- The history of the line; Victorian times, through its closure to its re use as a working heritage railway.
- Life along the line, how has the railway worked for the local communities.
- A locomotive time line, explore the engine sheds at Ropley.
- Bridges old and new (don't miss Network Rail's brand new bridge at Alton).
- Investigate the age of different landscapes and types of ecology you see at different stations. Has the railway altered these?
- If you would like advice on planning your visit contact the Education officer at education@watercressline.co.uk or 01962 733810 during office hours.