



LONDON WATERLOO	●
CLAPHAM JUNCTION	○
WIMBLEDON	○
WEYBRIDGE	○
WOKING	○
BROOKWOOD	○
ASH VALE	○
ALDERSHOT	○
FARNHAM	○
BENTLEY	○
ALTON	●
MEDSTEAD & FOUR MARKS	○
ROPLEY	○
ALRESFORD	●

DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS

trip on steam heritage railway;
Georgian town centre
(conservation area);
art galleries; traditional shops;
tea rooms; Brandy Mount
House Gardens; fulling mill;
river walks; Watercress
Festival (May); Alresford Show
(September); Alresford
Fair (October)

FREQUENCY OF TRAINS

Waterloo to Alton:
2 per hour (Mon-Sat),
1 per hour (Sun, change
at Aldershot)
Alton to Alresford:
3-6 per day (selected days
Mar-Oct; daily July-Aug)

57 MILES
1 HOUR 15 MINUTES
+ 35 MINUTES

*'West Country' Class 4-6-2
No. 34007 'Wadebridge' enters
the restored Medstead & Four
Marks station with a train
on the Mid-Hants Railway.*

This pleasant day trip to the watercress meadows of the Itchen Valley includes a 10-mile ride in a steam train over the Hampshire hills. Electric trains for Alton leave London's Waterloo Station, the busiest station in Britain, and head off down the former London & South Western Railway's main line. Pausing at Clapham Junction (the busiest railway junction in the world), trains make their way through London's leafy southwestern suburbs and into wealthy commuter belt country via Wimbledon and Weybridge to arrive at Woking. Here, just before the station, the Shah Jahan Mosque (built in 1889) can be spotted to the south of the railway. At Woking the Portsmouth-direct line via Guildford branches off to the south while Alton-bound trains continue along the main line as far as Brookwood, where they branch off at Pirbright Junction. Brookwood is home to the vast (once rail-served) London Necropolis Cemetery, which even had its own separate railway station at Waterloo.

From Pirbright Junction the Alton branch winds through pine woods and heathland, calling at Ash Vale (for trains to Ascot), then crossing over the Reading to Guildford line before arriving at the military town of Aldershot. The picturesque town of Farnham is the next stop and just beyond here the line becomes single track through Bentley (once the junction for the Bordon branch) before terminating at Alton. Steam trains for Alresford leave from the island platform and head out past the site of Butts Junction, from where the Light Railway to Basingstoke ran until 1932 and the Meon Valley Line to Fareham ran until 1955, climbing steadily to the highest point of the line at Medstead & Four Marks station. From here it is downhill to Ropley, where the Mid-Hants Railway has its engine shed and the station platform is decorated with examples of topiary. Continuing westward past the watercress beds unique to this area, the railway ends at pretty Alresford station, located just a few minutes' walk from the town centre.

