

# History of Steeton

Based on the finding of a Bronze Age axe, there is a belief that Steeton was populated during this period.

A Roman presence is evidenced by the existence of Roman Roads in and around the village, joining centres of Roman military occupation at Ilkley, Elslack and Colne. Steeton village dates from the Saxon period. The name is believed to have two possible origins, one being STIVERTON / STYVETON meaning Stephens town. Alternatively it may be derived from old English words STYLIC and TON meaning a farmstead built of or among stumps.

In the Domesday book of 1086 Steeton appears as STIVETUNE or STIVETON. For much of its history Steeton was an agricultural community boasting its own Corn Mill, known to have existed in the 16thC. By the 19thC the village had become industrialised, initially having a Cotton Mill and subsequently a Worsted Spinning Mill and a Bobbin Mill. The Bobbin Mill produced bobbins of such high quality that they were used throughout Britain and exported internationally.

Steeton in the 19thC was a progressive and industrious place. There were 50 shops selling a variety of products. A number of societies, sporting clubs and places of worship were well established. Buildings ranged from high status Manor houses and Halls to cottages and schools.

Transportation links improved and tolls were collected to support these schemes.

Connection to utilities improved the standard of living for the increasing population. .

Steeton is currently, better known for the siting of Airedale General Hospital, the area's largest employer, although it employs predominantly people living outside the village.

The area is also known for Jubilee Tower on the hill above Steeton, built in 1887 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Steeton continues to thrive. In recent years there has been a programme of development that has changed the character of the village but the essence of what was and is Steeton remains

Involved in many important historical events and connected to a number of famous individuals Steeton has an interesting past and a promising future.



Station Road, Steeton.

Station Road,  
Steeton  
1901

Photograph  
supplied by  
David Smith