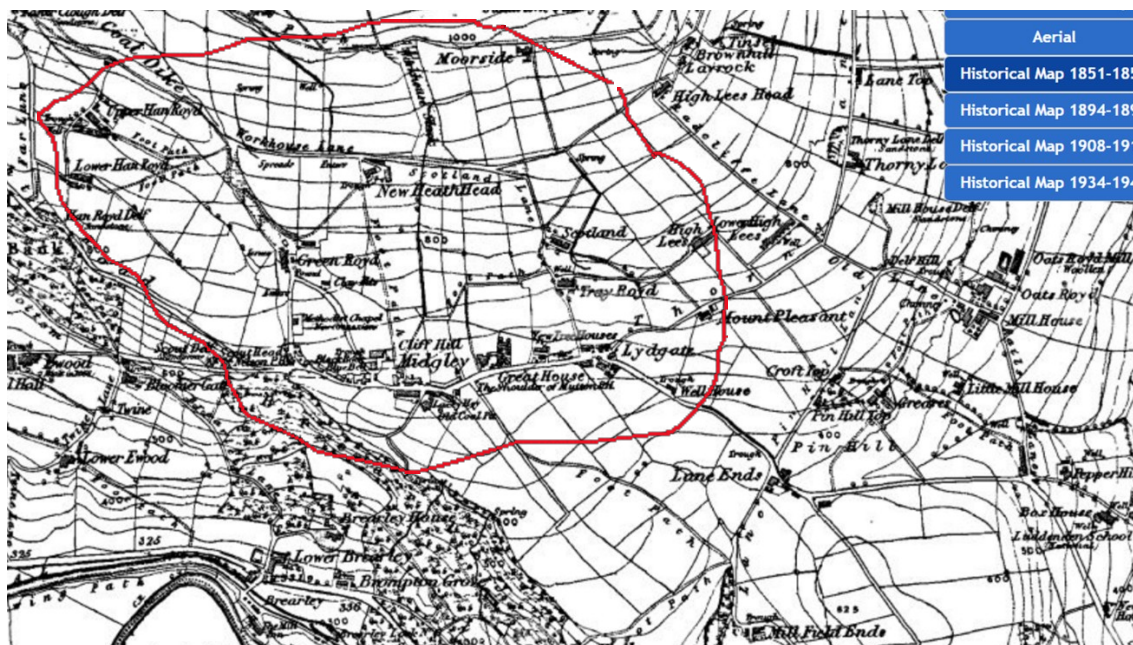


## Midgley 1851 Census Returns

A brief analysis of the 1851 Census Returns for the central part of Midgley, West Yorkshire, by Jerome Way, January 2025



Housing area covered:



1855 Map, [Historic maps | Calderdale Council](#)

Number of households: **116**

There were 23 unoccupied houses at the date of the census, so potentially 139 households. This compares with 131 households as of January 2025, with 2 unoccupied houses, giving potentially 133 households. So, on this count, there has been little change over 170 years.

Number of people: **546**

Number of people of 'working age' i.e. 14 and over: **379**

Number of Scholars and Half Timers (ages 8 – 14) : **53**

Number of children (<8): **114 (21%)**

Average age of females over 7 (8 to 92): **31**

Average age of males over 7 (8 to 92): **31**

Percentage of adults ( $\geq 14$ ) jobless: **10%**

Apart from five people (a pensioner, a retired weaver, two paupers and an invalid/idiot) these were all women, and practically all wives, referred to as 'following the family', i.e. looking after the family. It did not mean that all women gave up work when they married as a number of wives also had jobs.

Given below is a breakdown of the occupations stated in the Census.

	Number	Overall Percentage
Older Children (~ 8 - 14)	28	6.5
Half-timers (~ 8 - 14)	30	6.9
Wife / Follows the Family	52	12.0

	Number	Percentage of working population
Wool Sorter	2	0.5
Wool Comber	14	3.2
Comb Maker	5	1.2
Spinner	6	1.4
Wool rover and bobbin winder	22	5.1
Hand Loom Weaver	90	20.8
Carpet Weaver	8	1.9
Fancy Hand Loom Weaver	4	0.9
Factory Operator	48	11.1
Power Loom Weaver	45	10.4
Overlooker	2	0.5
Engine Tender & Fireman	1	0.2
Worsted Manufacturer	3	0.7
Picker Maker	2	0.5

All the above are directly involved in the textile industry and account for almost 60% of the working population

Stone Delvers/Masons	15	3.5
Farmer (+grocer, butcher, quarryman)	8	1.9
Game Keeper	2	0.5
Labourer	4	0.9

The above are primarily involved with working the land, almost 7%

House Servant/House Keeper	8	1.9
Cordwainer/Boot & Shoemaker	3	0.7
Clogger	3	0.7
Bread Baker	2	0.5
Chimney Sweep	4	0.9
Whitemetalsmith & Shopkeeper	2	0.5
Beerhouse Keeper	2	0.5
Pauper	2	0.5
Butcher/ apprentice	2	0.5

Weaver & Grocer	1	0.2
Gentlewoman	1	0.2
Invalid/idiot	1	0.2
Lodginghouse Keeper	1	0.2
Inn Keeper	1	0.2
Shop Keeper	1	0.2
Dress Maker	1	0.2
Sand Seller	1	0.2
Road Maker	1	0.2
Licenced Victualler	1	0.2
Pensioner of the Royal Artillery	1	0.2
Retired Weaver	1	0.2
Waggoner	1	0.2

## Comments

There is no evidence of cotton working. The nearest local mill is Oats Royd, a worsted spinning mill built in 1847.

The majority of references are to Worsted working, but some could be to Woollen.

It is not known how many Hand Looms were at home rather than in a mill loom shop.

Hand Loom Carpet Weaving involved the use of two warps simultaneously so may be a local speciality.

There were 23 unoccupied houses (16% of total, or 1 in 6) possibly indicating a declining local population.

*Currently there are 2 unoccupied houses (1.5% of total) There is practically no change in the number of houses, however I do not have the figures for the number of inhabitants, or of their age or occupation profiles.*