

Starts: Oakwell Hall, Birstall
Ends: Timothy Lane, Batley
Length: Four miles.

Starting the walk from Oakwell Hall Visitor Centre turn right up Warrens Lane and pass the hall and cafe on the left. Continue under the M62 motorway via a tunnel, pass through a gate and then take the first right from the main path over a stile and up a slight incline on to a field path.

Continue to the end of the field and pass through an opening in the fence before turning immediately right. Stay on this path around the edge of the field to approach Fieldhead Lane (B6125) as it runs over a motorway bridge. The stile near the lane is sometimes obscured by a tree but a couple of yards further along the fence has been partially removed to provide access to Fieldhead Lane.

Turn right and pass over the M62. Then cross the road and take the first left into Owler Lane noting the house on the left.

As the plaque declares this house was built on the site of the cottage where Joseph Priestley, the scientist who discovered oxygen and many other gases, was born in 1733. But he was much more than a chemist. Initially he was a teacher, a religious minister, a philosopher and reformer whose views on freedom and democracy meant he had to flee to America for safety. There he was welcomed by the founding fathers of American democracy – including President George Washington – as an inspiration.

Continue up this lane on a slight incline which takes you to the highest point on this section of the walk where good views of the Kirklees and Wakefield districts can be found.

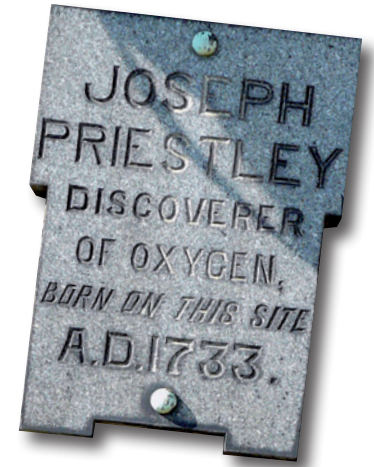
On approaching an industrial development take the first right opening marked Bridleway and continue down this track to where it becomes a tarmac road. At this point ignore the footpath

sign going right and continue straight ahead down the road to reach Gelderd Road (A62).

On reaching the road use the crossing to get to the other side, turn left and then swiftly right through a partial stone stile to enter Nab Lane. Pass terrace cottages on the right, ignore the footpath sign pointing right and continue to the T junction at the end of Nab Lane.

There turn right into the unsigned Pennine View and go straight ahead. Ignore sign for Pheasant Drive and continue forward taking a signed footpath to go over old railway bridge and eventually reach tarmac road leading to a junction with Leeds Road (A643).

On reaching Leeds Road turn left, pass the impressive Clough House standing in its own grounds on the left and a little while later reach Howden Clough Community Centre also on the left. Here walkers should cross the road and, immediately before reaching a cottage on the right, look out for a traditional footpath sign which, sometimes, can be partially obscured by a tree.



The sign on the face of the cottage.

The site of the cottage in Owler Lane, Birstall where Joseph Priestley, discoverer of oxygen, was born in 1733.



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Climb over a stile to reach the footpath. Continue down the narrow track, which runs behind the cottage and leads to Birkby Brow Wood, sometimes known as Brier Wood. To do so cross a wooden footbridge in the valley below and climb up the hill opposite to reach the main track running through the wood.

In the late 19th century this area was scarred by coal mining and also served as the place where members of the local militia used to practice their rifle shooting.

On reaching the level track turn right and follow it through the wood. Eventually it reaches a stile which is crossed and the route continues along the path passing through open fields to reach the spot in the bottom of the valley where Timothy Lane and Scotchman Lane meet and where this section of the walk ends.

The trail passes through the bluebell festooned surroundings of Birkby Brow Wood.

