

## Red Moss Pot

Members of Burnley Caving Club reported that Red Moss Pot “new” entrance had been blocked by boulders and covered over. CNCC called on the landowner to find out what had happened. The farmers story began in August 2009 when a calf became stuck in the open entrance rift and died. The value of this animal was about £800. He reported the incident to DEFRA and Yorkshire Dales National Park. He was given the impression that YDNP were going to make the entrance safe for livestock. After 12 months nothing had happened so the farmer filled in the entrance prior to turning out his cows with calves at foot during July 2010.

It was quickly agreed with the landowner that CNCC would make a stock proof lidded chamber over the entrance which would suit cavers and farmers needs. This work was carried out 10 days later by Jim Davis with a few CNCC volunteers. The farmer generously offered to take materials up to the site using his quad bike.

The work involved building a solid wall across the rift using light weight lintels and stone left over on site from a recent dry stone walling contract. The chamber was then capped with a 600mm square steel inspection cover. A small “letter box” slot was built into the side of the chamber to allow access for bats and natural airflow.

The work was funded by Natural England through the Northern Caves Monitoring Project.

Access permission is from Mr Jim Wood at Scale Farm ( **not** Top Farm –as detailed in Northern Caves volume 2 )

When visiting Red Moss Pot please cover the entrance while you are underground.

Another cow stuck in the entrance would compromise your exit.

Pictures below show Jim Davis (contractor) and volunteer Tom Duckett making a tidy and imaginative solution to the problem of building across a rift entrance.

Photos by andrew hinde



