

DALE HEAD POT

Dead Rabbit Pot more like!

Date : 15th April 2012

Present : Chris Sharman, Alex Ritchie, Peter Dale, Rob Santus

Weather : Clear and quite chilly.

Rigging : nearly all the pitches are now P-hangered, which we were duly grateful for, it being chilly enough. Exceptions:

- Entrance is backed up to iron stakes
- Emery needs a natural backup (sling)
- The 10' is natural (sling).

A good trip down a great pothole that I haven't done before. A pleasantly short walk from the road, followed by a little lazing in the sun while people decided which iron stakes to belay from. Down the short entrance pitch (complete with plaque to caver who died in the entrance crawl) & dig climb (with dead and rotting rabbits). Straight into the very low entrance crawl where I did quite a bit of excavating as well as stopping to remove my SRT kit. Only a short section though, followed by sideways crawl enlarging to a good passage.

From there a succession of clean washed pitches (Bottle, 3rd, Wet, Emery, Crow's Nest 1 & 2, Windy Ledge, Window, 10') took us down to the Borehole - a slightly awkward passage becoming muddy. SRT kit off again for me.

This is followed by Pool Pitch, then a short and spacious duck and an easy climb down to the sump - I was fortunate to be first there, when it was fairly pleasant - conditions may have deteriorated after I left.

The return was straightforward - no surprises, although Rob did say that Window pitch was an awkward de-rig, being forced to haul the rope and pack the bag in a restricted slot.

Emerged (to snow!) a bit after 4pm.

A good day out in a classic pot, surprisingly seldom visited.

Chris Sharman

A [Black Rose Caving Club trip report](#).