



Figure 6.5.10: Waiting for the tide at Red Chamber

when is not known. As the cave narrows it becomes a man-made adit, driven through the clay fill of the narrowed fissure and ending at water-filled shaft. Exploration of the shaft by cave diver Martin Farr revealed it to be square-cut, driven vertically down through the clay floor of the fissure for some metres. It is assumed that the adit and shaft were driven in a search for a fresh calcite vein.

The Mewslade Caves. Approaching Mewslade from the east, the coast path leaves the cliffs to join the path to the beach halfway down the slade. Crossing this it ascends the west face of the slade towards Rhossili. There are several interesting caves in the slade. Three are exposed in a small quarry in the west bank, 50m below the National Trust entrance gate. Their polished entrances show they appear to be well-used by locals and visitors seeking adventure.

An excavated cave (Taylor, 1991) is visible in Richard's Rock, an outcrop of rock in the narrow field halfway down the slade and another cave, apparently unexcavated, can be found 100m from it, at the base of a low cliff in the east side of the slade which is fronted by a stone field wall. **Mewslade Cave** is about 100m south of Richard's Rock, halfway up the east wall of the slade.

Leaving Mewslade and passing **Lewes Castle Cave**, which is below the cliff face just east of Fall Bay, the island of Worms Head can be seen. Crossing to it is via a tidal causeway. The times when this is open are displayed at the Coastwatch building on the headland.

Worms Head Cave is a Mesolithic burial cave right at the end of The Worm. After following the path to the end of the outer head, continue



Figure 6.5.11: Exposed phreatic passage and chamber opening, Mewslade Quarry Cave C