

Lower Farm, Chinnor. SP 74926 00357.

On 30 December 2006 Mr Nick Potter of Lower Farm, Chinnor reported the discovery of an inhumation. John Moore visited and recorded its location during heavy rain. The finding had already been reported to the police who had visited and declared it as 'old' and not of their interest. However, this did not prevent them from removing off-site the long bones and vertebra. The police suggested that Mr Potter should report the finding to an archaeologist.

The inhumation was found during the digging of *c.* 10m of trench for a land drain. The trench was located to the NW of an L-shaped barn and SE of a small shed. The majority of the burial was outside the line of the trench which had been extended to fully expose the inhumation. The body had been cleaned (very well) by Nick. What was left after the police visit was to remain *in situ* and be re-buried.

The body was orientated ENE-WSW with the head to the ENE. The inhumation was lying on its right side with the head facing NNW. The body was straight, and the legs were reported to have been flexed to the rear. Nick said that the arms also were to the rear. This suggests that the body had been bound at the time of burial. The bone was in good condition although the skull was crushed (prior to finding). The burial may have been of a young adult.

The grave had not been fully exposed. It was a shallow grave cut *c.* 180mm deep. The top of the skull was only *c.* 250mm below modern ground level. Another cut feature was present on the SE side; the relationship between the two was not clear.

Three other cut features were present within the length of trench further to the E. These were a small pit, another small pit or posthole, and a large pit.

The only find was a sherd of Romano British greyware that the finder had kept with the small pieces of bone that he had disturbed from the finding and cleaning of the burial. It is possible that it had come from the grave fill but this cannot be confirmed.

Mr Potter reported that the field to the west is popular with metal detectorists. The main area of detecting, as indicated by his wave of an arm, was about 70-100m away towards the northern side of the field. This all suggests the presence of a RB site, possibly a settlement extending over some distance.

John Moore Heritage Services
9 January 2007