

SPRING ROAD MUNICIPAL CEMETERY (Oxfordshire)

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Excavations by Oxford Archaeological Unit in 2000 uncovered an Iron Age occupation site at Spring Road (Allen and Kamash 2008). The site sits near Abingdon in Oxfordshire, which is close to the River Ock and overlies the second gravel terrace (Allen and Kamash 2008, 1). A cemetery now lies over the site, which, through the course of grave digging, instigated the excavations that covered nearly 3000 metres² (Allen and Kamash 2008, 9). Occupation at Spring Road during the Iron Age is evident by a series of roundhouses, postholes, ditches and burials (Allen and Kamash 2008, 24-34). The excavations uncovered four inhumations plus an additional inhumation after gravediggers disturbed the burial (Allen and Kamash 2008, 27-29). The four burials from the Oxford Archaeological Unit's excavations are contemporary with a roundhouse that, during the Iron Age, had either just went out of use or went from a domestic structure to a cemetery area (Allen and Kamash 2008, 20). These five inhumations are the only human remains that securely date to the Iron Age recovered from Spring Road. Gravediggers found another inhumation away from the other burials but the burial lacked associated material in order to determine the date, although it is possibly Iron Age in date (Allen and Kamash 2008, 29). Peter Hacking and Angela Boyle (2008) conducted the osteological analysis.