
Short Report:

Willow Hall Farm Quarry, Thorney

TL2490 0210 (ALBION report 2018/77)

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Eight hectares were excavated at this gravel quarry in 2016–17 in addition to the seven reported in *PCAS* CVI, 137–8. No further Bronze Age remains were identified, but a continuation of the pastoral Iron Age and Roman landscape was revealed. A paucity of artefacts suggests that there was little domestic activity within the excavated area, although a slight increase towards the north probably reflects the greater proximity of the scheduled site at Bar Pasture Farm. Very little animal bone was recovered from this northern area. This is unlikely to be a genuine absence, but to be the result of poor preservation due to the soil conditions.

Iron Age remains were mostly restricted to ditches and pits, with four four-post structures. The ditches largely defined field systems and enclosures, though two parallel north–south ditches may have defined a narrow drove-way.

The two Roman drove-ways previously recorded were found to continue to the north and north-east, though with an increased level of truncation. A contemporary roundhouse and part of an enclosure were also uncovered, together with several pits dated by pottery to the Roman period – one yielding 240 sherds (5kg), which accounts for more than half the entire prehistoric and Roman assemblage recovered so far.

