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Cover: A composite image of aerial photography and lidar data showing the 18ha Samnite hillfort at Monte Santa Croce-Cognolo in central Italy. A suite of non-invasive investigations has revealed a lack of evidence for permanent occupation within the area enclosed by the site's monumental walls; instead, the results point to pastoral activities, compatible with local oral accounts of the recent use of the site for year-round pasturing and seasonal foraging. For more information, see 'Italy's empty hillforts: reassessing urban-centric biases through combined non-invasive prospection methods on a Samnite site (fourth–third centuries BC)' by Giacomo Fontana & Wieke de Neef in this issue. Image: Giacomo Fontana, Ancient Hillforts Survey.

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