

Cultural Resources Survey of 15.7 Acres for the Proposed Ashler Hills Park, Scottsdale, Arizona

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Reviewed by

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Project Report No. 21-113.SRSF
Desert Archaeology, Inc.
Project No. 21-122

3975 N. Tucson Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85716 • March 17, 2022

**STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
SURVEY REPORT SUMMARY FORM**

1. REPORT TITLE

1a. Report Title: A Cultural Resources Survey of 15.7 Acres for the Proposed Ashler Hills Park, Scottsdale, Arizona

1b. Report Author(s): Caleb E. Ferbrache

1c. Date: March 17, 2022

1d. Report No.: pr21-113

2. PROJECT REGISTRATION/PERMITS

2a. ASM Accession Number: 2021-0284

2b. AAA Permit Number: 2021-010bl

2c. ASLD Lease Application Number(s): N/A

2d. Other Permit Number(s): N/A

3. ORGANIZATION/CONSULTING FIRM

3a. Name: Desert Archaeology, Inc.

3b. Internal Project Number: 21-122

3c. Internal Project Name: Ashler Hills Park Survey

3d. Contact Name: Patricia Castalia

3e. Contact Address: 3975 N. Tucson Boulevard, Tucson, Arizona 85716

3f. Contact Phone: 520.881.2244

3g. Contact Email: arch@desert.com

4. SPONSOR/LEAD AGENCY

4a. Sponsor: Floor Associates

4b. Lead Agency: City of Scottsdale

4c. Agency Project Number(s): N/A

4d. Agency Project Name: Ashler Hills Park Survey

4e. Funding Source(s): City

4f. Other Involved Agencies: N/A

4g. Applicable Regulations: Arizona Antiquities Act (ARS §41-841 et seq.); Scottsdale Revised Code, Chapter 46, Article VI

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5. DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT OR UNDERTAKING: The City of Scottsdale is developing a park in the neighborhood of Ashler Hills in northern Scottsdale. The designated parcel for the project is northwest of the intersection of E. Ashler Hills Drive and N. 74th Way, covering 15.7 acres. According to the City of Scottsdale website, the park will include turf areas, lighted game courts, a playground, a restroom structure, and a lighted parking lot. The western boundary of the planned development runs due north-south along the western edge of an adjacent commercial plaza, extending south until meeting Ashler Hills Drive. The southern and eastern boundaries are defined by the respective northern and western edges of Ashler Hills Drive and 74th Way. The boundary curves northwest where 74th Way enters a gated residential community, and it follows a fence line until meeting the proposed western boundary for the development. The maximum dimensions of the parcel are 506 m north-south and 161 m east-west. The park development will involve extensive ground-disturbing activities, and a Class III cultural resources survey was required for the entire area where the park will be developed.

6. PROJECT AREA/AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS: The project area consists of the entire 15.7 acres that is proposed for development as the Ashler Hills Park. The survey was limited to the entirety of the project area.

7. PROJECT LOCATION

7a. Address: E. Ashler Hills Drive and N. 74th Way, Scottsdale, Arizona 85266 (APN 216-51-098)

7b. Route: N/A

7c. Mileposts Limits: N/A

7d. Nearest City/Town: Scottsdale, Arizona

7e. County: Maricopa

7f. Project Locator UTM: 414682 m E, 3737896 m N

7g. NAD 83

7h. Zone: 12S

7i. Baseline & Meridian: Gila and Salt River

7j. USGS Quadrangle(s): 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle Cave Creek, Ariz. (AZ U:1:[SW])

7k. Legal Description(s): Portion of the NW ¼ of Section 14, Township 5 North, Range 4 East

8. SURVEY AREA

8a. Total Acres: 15.7

8b. Survey Area.

| 1. Land Jurisdiction | 2. Total Acres Surveyed | 3. Total Acres Not Surveyed | 4. Justification for Areas Not Surveyed |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| City | 15.7 | 0 | N/A |

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9. ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXTS

9a. Landform: Lower bajada

9b. Elevation: 2,270 ft amsl

9c. Surrounding Topographic Features: The project area is a small, undeveloped parcel in an area where development has largely obliterated the surrounding topography. There is some undeveloped land east of 74th Way, but the topography is consistent with that of the project parcel. One notable feature on the local landscape is the large rock outcrop just east of the parcel's southern half, upon which the structure commonly called the "Boulder House" has been constructed. Otherwise, the only other notable feature in the local topography are a few hills approximately 0.5 km northeast of the project area.

9d. Nearest Drainage: Prior to local development, the area was traversed by several minor east-west flowing ephemeral drainages, the most prominent of which was at the southern end of the parcel. Modern development appears to have cut off these drainages from the surrounding natural watershed, and now, likely only channels runoff from the surrounding streets, sidewalk, and parking lot.

9e. Local Geology: Lower bajada consisting of nearly level alluvial and colluvial deposits originally characterized by east-west oriented ephemeral drainages (Richard et al. 2000). Granite was the dominant rock on the landscape.

9f. Vegetation: Vegetation is consistent with the Arizona Upland subdivision of Sonoran Desertscrub (Turner and Brown 1994). Larger woody species, such as mesquite and paloverde, tended to prefer the area around the washes, particularly the more substantial wash to the south and another wash near the center of the parcel. The remaining terrain is largely populated by saguaro, ocotillo, creosotebush, cholla, barrel cactus, and various small scrub such as bursage. The landscape was generally open.

9g. Soils/Deposition: Eba very gravelly loam, 1-8 percent slopes on fan terraces; well-drained with medium runoff and slow permeability, characterized by alluvium derived mainly from igneous rock (Camp 1986). Natural depth is present.

9h. Buried Deposits: Not likely

9i. Justification: No artifacts were observed on the surface, including in the drainages, and neither were other signs of notable prehistoric activity, such as soil staining or fire-cracked rock. The only feature identified was a late historic foundation where buried deposits were not observed or expected. In addition, there is a low density of previously recorded cultural resources in the area.

10. BUILT ENVIRONMENT: The parcel is a small, mostly undeveloped space surrounded by roads, a residential area, and a commercial plaza. The commercial plaza lies along the western parcel boundary and is largely isolated by a cinderblock wall that runs along the edge. The construction of the plaza and the cinderblock wall appears to have disturbed a swath up to 20 m wide along the western edge of the project area, including some north-south oriented drainage ditches. The southern boundary is adjacent to the paved road, Ashler Hills Drive; a sidewalk is also present along the edge of the road. This road curves along the southeastern corner and becomes 74th Way. This road continues along the eastern boundary until it enters a gated residential community. At this point, a branch of the sidewalk runs into the interior of the parcel, specifically running parallel to the northeastern and northern project area boundary,

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offset by about 15 m toward the parcel interior. The area between this stretch of the sidewalk and the project area's northern-northeastern boundary is occupied by a large artificial berm some 1-2 m high. Some drainage features are built along the paved road, and a utility installation is built near the gate to the residential community, north of the point where the sidewalk curves more directly into the project area. The land immediately east of 74th Way is largely undeveloped, except the so-called "Boulder House," located about 140 m east of the project area. The Whisper Rock Golf Course is approximately 120 m southeast of the project area, and another residential area is on the other side of the road from the project area's southwestern corner.

11. INVENTORY CLASS COMPLETED

11a. Class I Inventory:

11b. Researcher(s):

11c. Class II Survey:

11d Sampling Strategy:

11e. Class III Inventory:

12. BACKGROUND RESEARCH SOURCES

12a. AZSITE:

12b. ASM Archaeological Records Office:

12c. SHPO Inventories and/or SHPO Library:

12d. NRHP Database:

12e. ADOT Portal:

12f. GLO Maps: Township 4 North, Range 5 East (surveyed 1919, filed 1921)

12g. Land- Managing Agency Files: City of Scottsdale Historic Preservation Office

12h. Tribal Cultural Resources Files: N/A

12i. Local Government Websites:

<https://scottsdaleaz.gov/Assets/ScottsdaleAZ/Historic+Preservation/ScottsdaleHistoricRegister>

12j. Other: General Land Office records accessed at USDA Bureau of Land Management website, <https://glorerecords.blm.gov>

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13. BACKGROUND RESEARCH RESULTS

13a. Previous Projects Intersecting or Adjacent to the Study Area:

| 1. Project Reference Number | 2. Project Name | 3. Author(s) | 4. Year |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--|---------|
| 1987-243.ASM | North Scottsdale Reconnaissance | Regional Environmental Consultants (RECON) | 1987 |
| 1996-140.ASM | Amberjack Property | DeMaagd and Punzmann | 1996 |

13b. Previously Recorded Cultural Resources Within a ½-mile Buffer around the Study Area:

| 1. Site Number/ Name | 2. Affiliation | 3. Site Type | 4. Eligibility Status | 5. Associated Reference(s) |
|--|---------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| AZ U:1:124(ASM) | Prehistoric | Rock ring and lithic scatter | Not evaluated | Roth 1994 |
| AZ U:1:165(ASM), Empie Archaeostromy site | Prehistoric | Rockshelter with artifact scatter; current site of modern house | Recommended not eligible | Wallace 2005 |
| AZ U:1:179(ASM) | Hohokam | Artifact scatter | Not evaluated | DeMaagd and Puncmann 1996; Wenker 1999 |
| AZ U:1:180(ASM) | Hohokam | Artifact scatter | Not evaluated | DeMaagd and Puncmann 1996; Wenker 1999 |
| AZ U:1:181(ASM) | Hohokam | Artifact scatter | Not evaluated | DeMaagd and Puncmann 1996; Wenker 1999 |
| AZ U:1:188(ASM) | Historic/ Modern | False grave cairn | Recommended not eligible | DeMaagd and Puncmann 1996; Wenker 1999 |
| AZ U:1:189(ASM) | Archaic; Hohokam | Artifact scatter | Not evaluated | DeMaagd and Puncmann 1996; Wenker 1999 |

13c. Historic Buildings/Districts/Neighborhoods:

| 1. Property Name or Address | 2. Year | 3. Eligibility Status |
|-----------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| None | | |

13d. Background Research Narrative: Prior to conducting fieldwork, Desert Archaeology consulted records from AZSITE, the ASM Archaeological Records Office, and the City of Scottsdale to determine if previous cultural resources surveys had been conducted that intersected or overlapped the project. Two surveys were identified, one that slightly intersected the project (1987-243.ASM) and one that completely encompassed the project (1996-140.ASM). Although methods of the 1996 survey were the same as current practice, local surface conditions of the project could have changed due to natural erosional processes across the span of 25 years. Therefore, the decision was made to resurvey the project in keeping with Arizona SHPO Guidance No. 5 (Arizona SHPO 2004).

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14. CULTURAL CONTEXTS

14a. Prehistoric Culture: Prehistoric Native Culture, Hohokam

14b. Protohistoric Culture: O'odham, Yavapai, Apache

14c. Indigenous Historic Culture: O'odham, Yavapai

14d. Euro-American Culture: 1956–present

15. FIELD SURVEY PERSONNEL

15a. Principal Investigator: T. Kathleen Henderson, Ph.D.

15b. Field Supervisor: Caleb E. Ferbrache, M.A.

15c. Crew: Caleb E. Ferbrache

15d. Fieldwork Date(s): June 4, 2021

16. SURVEY METHODS

16a. Transect Intervals: 15 m apart

16b. Coverage (%): 100 percent overall; parallel north-south transects beginning at the southwestern corner of the project area

16c. Site Recording Criteria: ASM

16d. Ground Surface Visibility: Good (75–90 percent)

16e. Observed Disturbances: The survey area has been subjected to a fair level of disturbance. First, a 20-m-wide north-south swath along the western boundary of the project area appears to have been disturbed by movement of large machinery during construction of the commercial plaza west of the project area; it also includes some wide, north-south oriented drainage ditches. There is also an approximately 7-m-wide well-traveled two-track road that passes east-west through the central part of the parcel. It appears to be an extension of a two-track on the opposite side of 74th Way that passes along the southern edge of the residential area. In addition, broken liquor bottles and other modern trash are spread across the parcel, and one small fire ring was spotted. Finally, the sidewalk, utility constructions, and berm along the north-northeastern boundary are additional disturbances to the parcel.

17. FIELD SURVEY RESULTS

17a. No Cultural Resources Identified:

17b. Historical In-use Structures Identified: **Form(s) Attached:**

17c. Number of IOs Recorded: 1

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17d. Table of IOs:

| 1. IO Number | 2. Description | 3. Date Range | 4. UTM's |
|--------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Historic structure foundation | Late historic | 414749.2 m E 3738329.6 m N |

18. COMMENTS: No significant cultural resources were encountered during the survey. However, one isolated feature was encountered and recorded (IO 1). This feature is a poured concrete structure foundation immediately south of the sidewalk in the northeastern part of the project area. It measures roughly 20 ft northeast-southwest by 11 ft northwest-southeast. The walls are 18 inches high and 6 inches thick. There are no clearly associated artifacts with the foundation, although some milled lumber of indeterminate age is in the interior of the foundation. The exteriors of the southwestern and northeastern walls are molded with milled lumber, while the exteriors of the northwestern and southeastern walls are molded with sheets of corrugated metal. Neither the history nor the use of this structure is currently known. It is clearly visible from the sidewalk, and there is some modern garbage (aluminum cans, plastic bottles, PVC pipe, and shade fabric) inside in addition to the lumber. Other items on the interior of indeterminate age include plain bailing wire and discarded fence posts made from branches or logs. The interior sediment consists of coarse mixed sand. A portion of the southeastern wall has collapsed toward the interior, and a large number of small cholla segments are piled on top, which may represent a packrat nest. The foundation was recorded as an isolated feature, because the Arizona State Museum defines an isolated feature as one that “does not have any other features within 100 m and also lacks artifacts.” Although no datable artifacts are associated with the structure, it is estimated to date to around the 1940s. It lacks any qualities that would make it eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

A USGS 30-minute by 60-minute map of the Cave Creek quadrangle from 1930 appears to depict a dirt road passing northwest-southeast through the middle of the project area, but no clear signs of this road were observed.

This project will have no effect on significant cultural resources, and no further archaeological investigation of the project area is recommended. Desert Archaeology, Inc. further recommends that a Certificate of No Effect be granted for the Ashler Hills proposed park area.

SECTION 19. ATTACHMENTS

19a. Project Location Map: (see Figure 19a.1 [topographic map] and Figure 19a.2 [aerial photograph])

19b. Land Jurisdiction Map: (see Figure 19b.1)

19c. Background Research Map(s): (see Figure 19c.1 [sites] and Figure 19c.2 [projects])

19d. GLO Map(s): The single GLO map of this area, filed in 1921, depicts no cultural features within the project area.

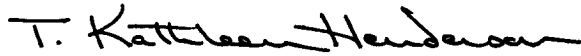
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19e. Project Overview Image: (see Figures 19e.1 [overview] and 19e.2 [IO #1])

19f. References:

SECTION 20. CONSULTANT CERTIFICATION

I certify the information provided herein has been reviewed for content and accuracy and all work meets applicable agency standards.



Signature

Principal Investigator

Title

SECTION 21. DISCOVERY CLAUSE

In the event that previously unreported cultural resources are encountered during ground disturbing activities, all work must immediately cease within 30 m (100 ft) until a qualified archaeologist has documented the discovery and evaluated its eligibility for the Arizona or National Register of Historic Places in consultation with the lead agency, the SHPO, and Tribes, as appropriate. Work must not resume in this area without approval of the lead agency.

If human remains are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, all work must immediately cease within 30 m (100 ft) of the discovery and the area must be secured. The Arizona State Museum, lead agency, SHPO, and appropriate Tribes must be notified of the discovery. All discoveries will be treated in accordance with NAGPRA (Public Law 101-601; 25 U.S.C. 3001-3013) or Arizona Revised Statutes (ARS §41-844 and ARS §41-865), as appropriate, and work must not resume in this area without authorization from ASM and the lead agency.

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REFERENCES CITED

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- 1996 *Archaeological Investigation of the Amberjack Property, North Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona*. ACS Project No. 96-28. Archaeological Consulting Services, Ltd., Tempe, Arizona.

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Wenker, Chris

- 1999 *Test Excavations at Nine Archaeological Sites on the Scottsdale 927 Property, Scottsdale, Arizona*. Cultural Resource Report No. 99-49. SWCA, Inc., Phoenix.

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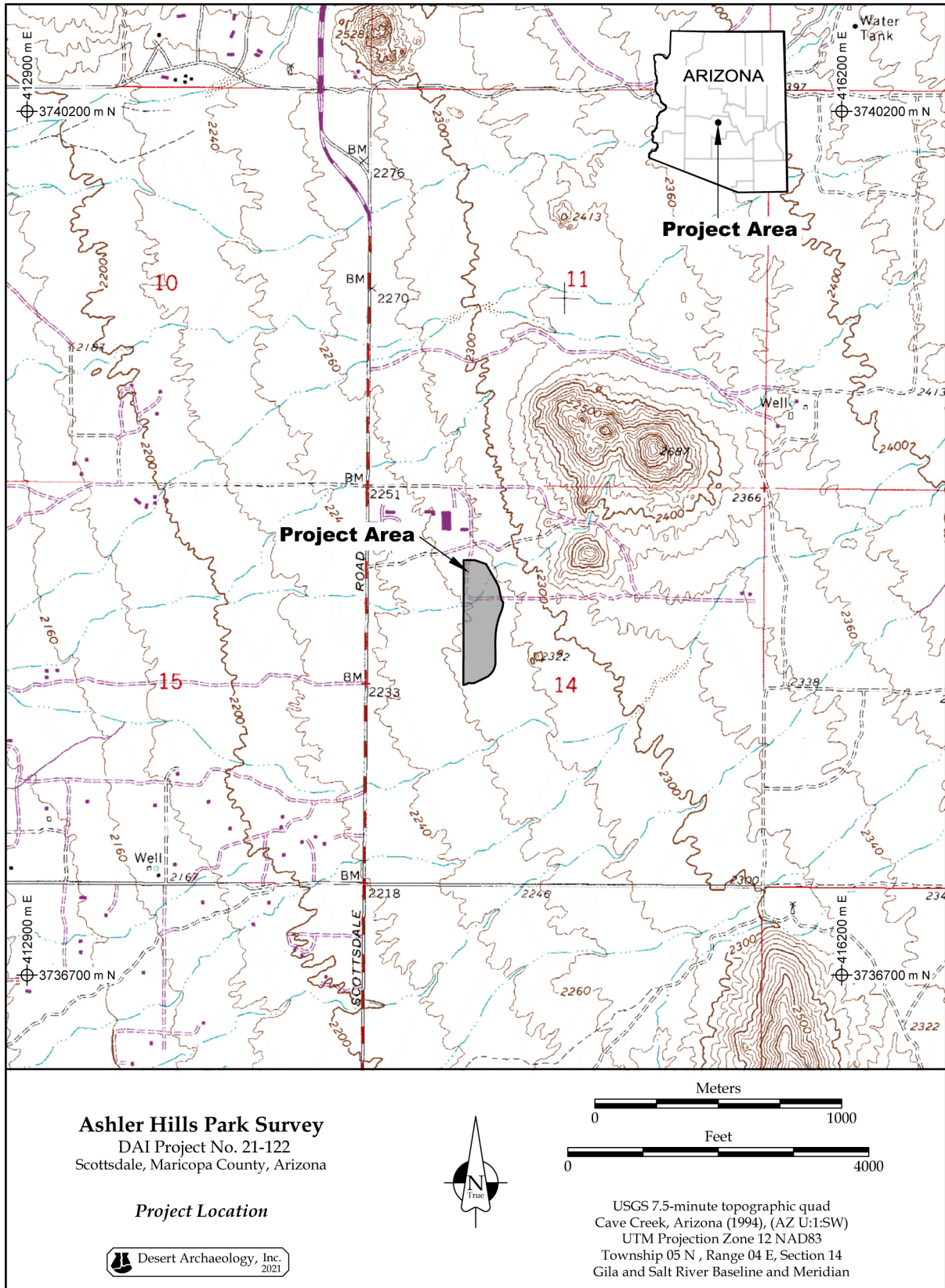


Figure 19a.1.

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Ashler Hills Park Survey
DAI Project No. 21-122
Scottsdale, Maricopa County, Arizona

*Project Area and
Results of Survey*

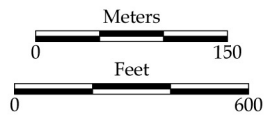
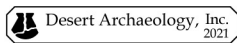


Figure 19a.2.

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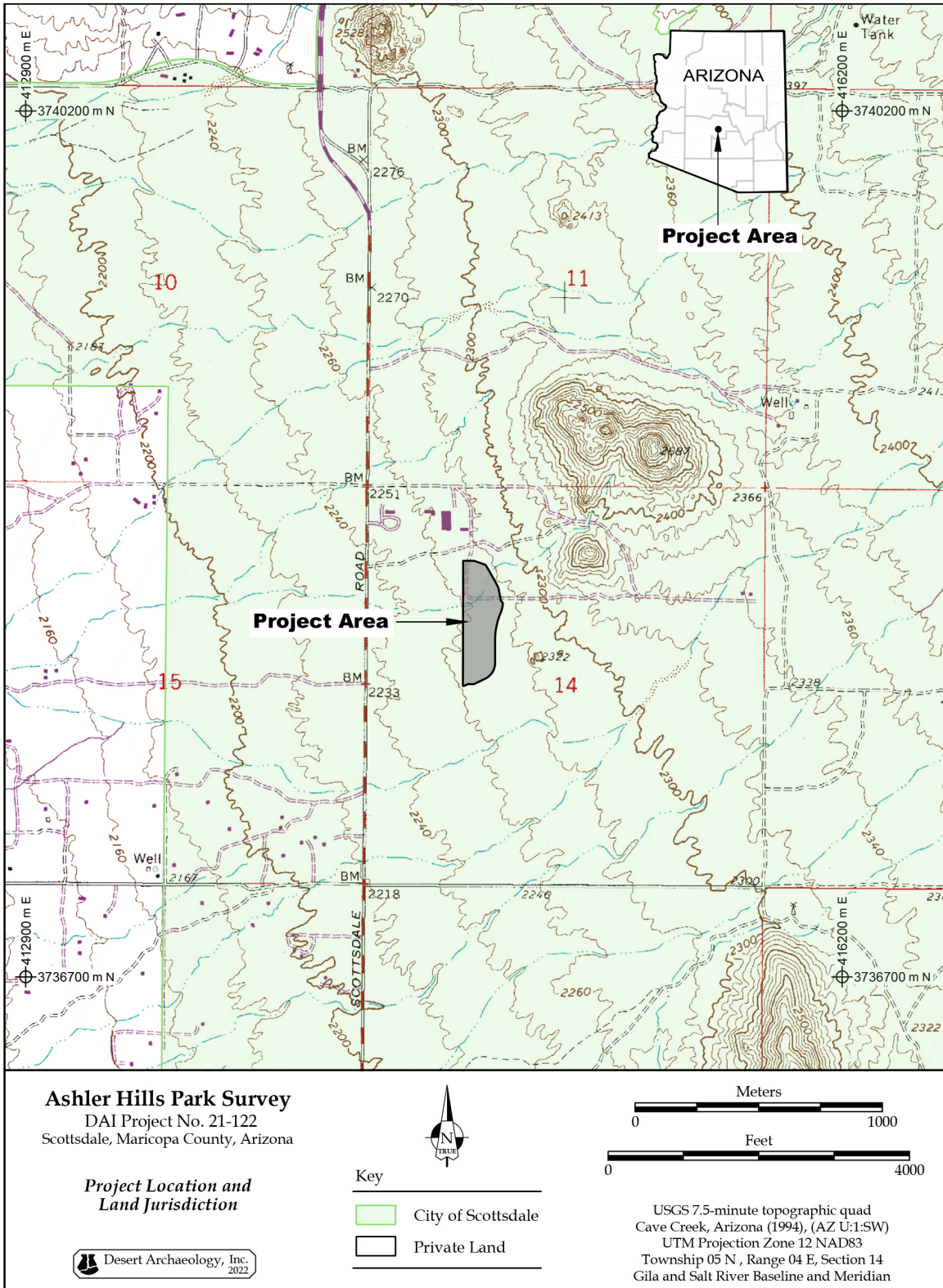


Figure 19b.1.

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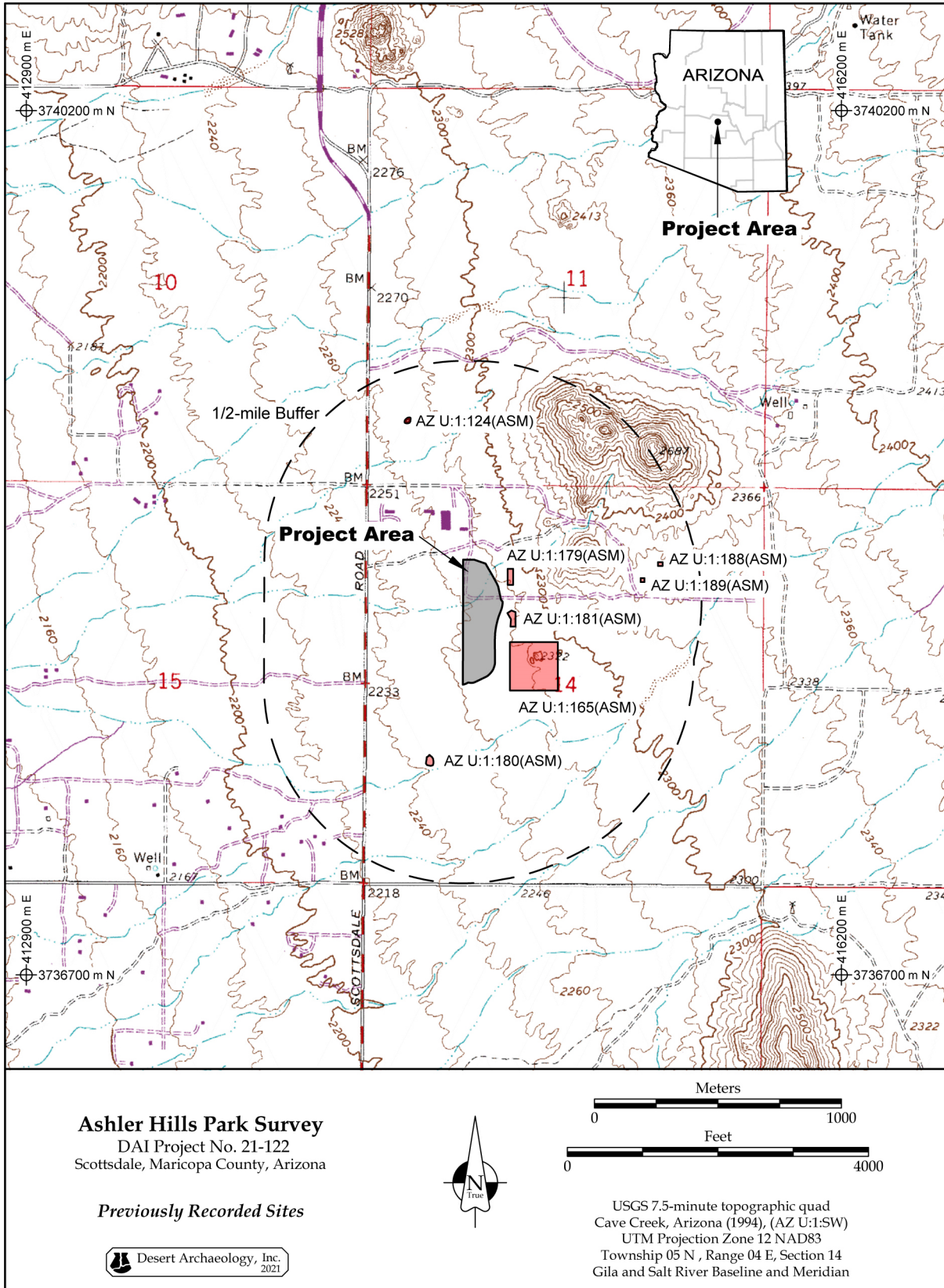


Figure 19c.1.

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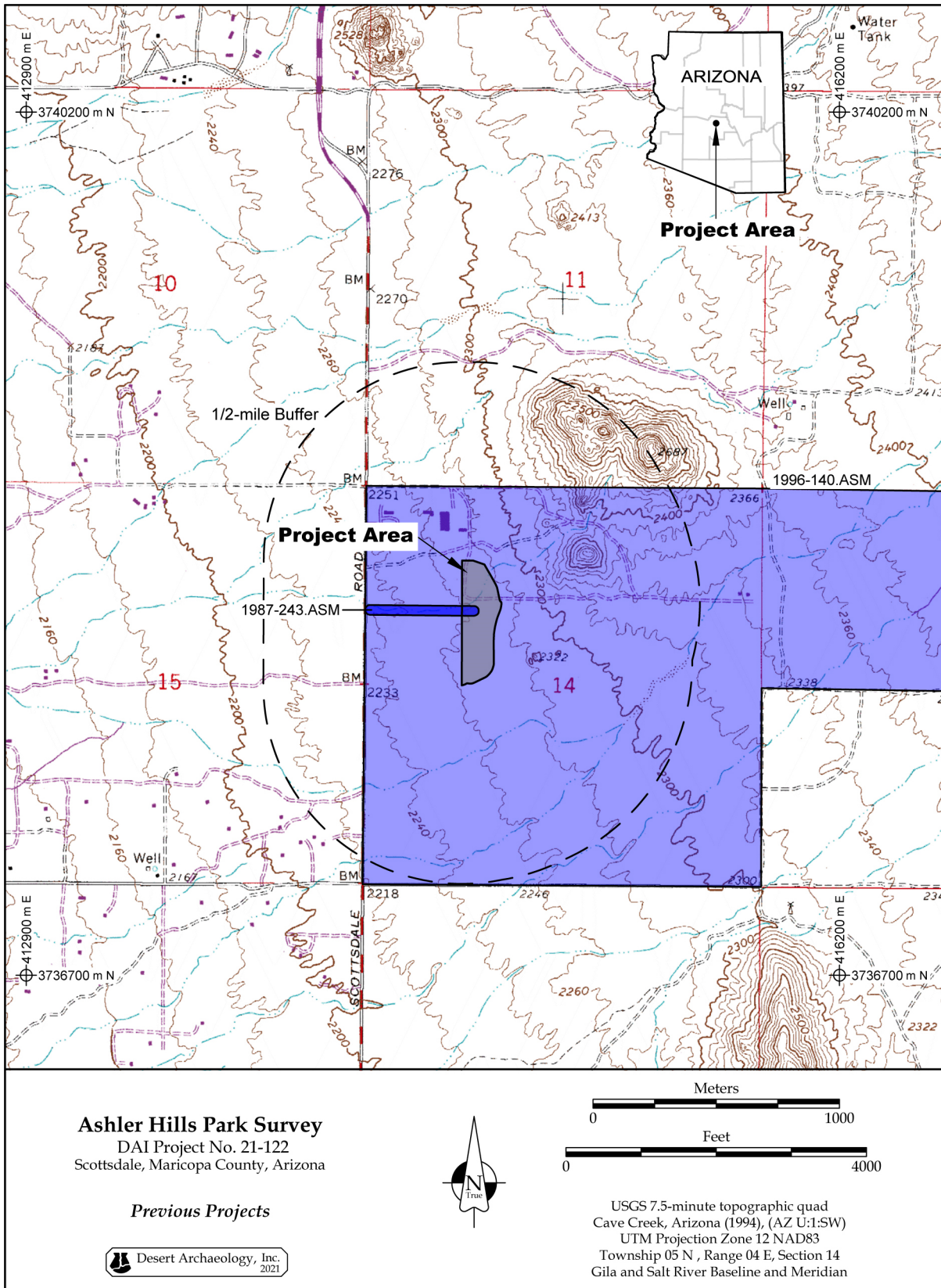


Figure 19c.2.

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Figure 19e.1. Project area overview; view is to the northwest.

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Figure 19e.2. IO #1, historic structure foundation; view is to the south.