GUIDE 03 · NETWORK SETUP

Access points on a NETGEAR M4250

Plug in an access point, confirm it got an IP address, make sure its port carries every VLAN, and put a wireless network on the VLAN you want. All in NETGEAR Engage — the AP itself is never configured directly.

DO GUIDE 02 FIRST

An access point needs an IP address before it can be managed, and on a show network nothing hands out IP addresses until you turn on the switch's own DHCP server. That is **Guide 02 — DHCP on the management VLAN**. Without it, everything here stops at step B.

- DHCP is serving on management, and you have seen a device take a lease.
- Your laptop is on the management VLAN with a static IP address in the 10.224.2.x/12 range.
- You are on the right **Site** — the picker sits at the top right, next to Save.
- A PoE port is free on a switch Engage already manages.

IMPORTANT — YOU STILL NEED A ROUTER

You cannot plug an internet line straight into the switch. Wireless clients that expect internet need a router on the internet VLAN, exactly like a wired machine does. Something has to sit between the incoming line and the show network to hand out IP addresses on the internet VLAN and route traffic out to the world. A NETGEAR switch does not do that job.

Put a router in line. A **NETGEAR PR460X** is the tidy answer because Engage configures it natively alongside the switches. A small travel router such as a **GL.iNet** also does the trick. Either way its WAN side takes the incoming line and its LAN side lands on the internet VLAN — and management and sACN stay routerless.

INSIDE

NETGEAR ENGAGE ONLY
Nothing typed on the AP.

Rev A · August 2026
uplink.show/resources

Get the access point on

STEP A

Plug it into a management port

Use a PoE port that is on the management VLAN — an access port, not the trunk. The AP powers up and asks for an IP address; the switch answers from the pool.

STEP B

Find the IP address it got

Check the switch's port view for the neighbour on that port, or the vendor's setup app. Anything on 10.224.x.x that was not there before is your AP.

STEP C

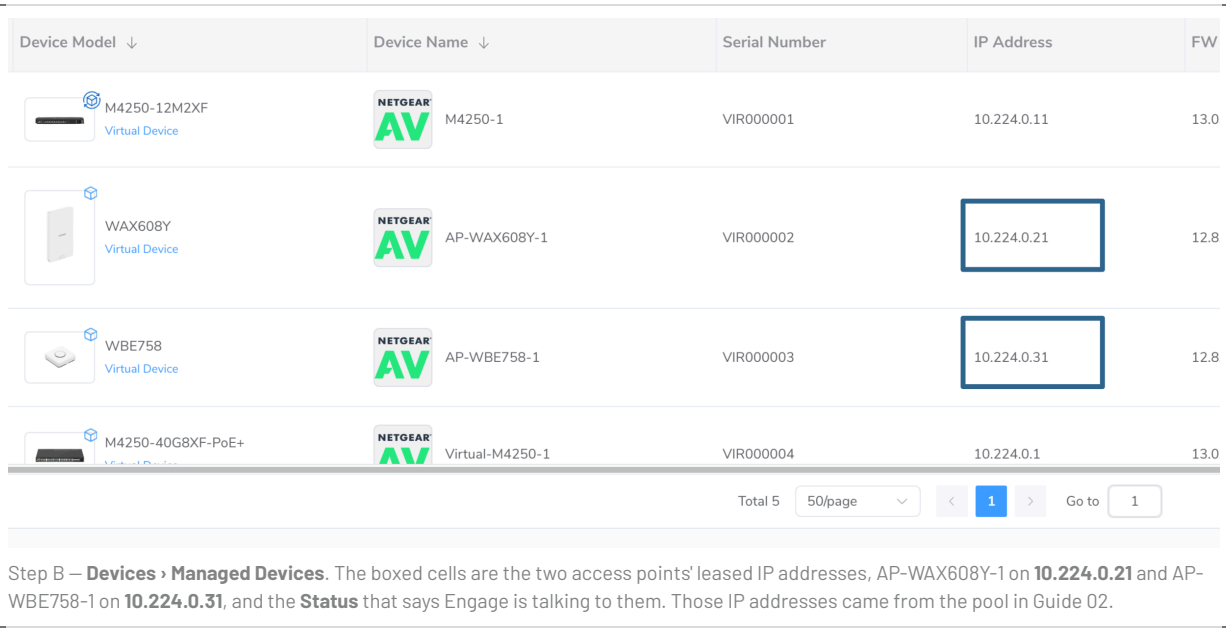
Check the port went to a trunk

When Engage recognises a NETGEAR access point on a port it should auto-trunk that port and push every VLAN down it. Look at the port map: an auto-trunked port is a clearly visible grey. If it did not happen, set that port to a manual trunk — the steps are two pages on.

STEP D

Then give it an SSID

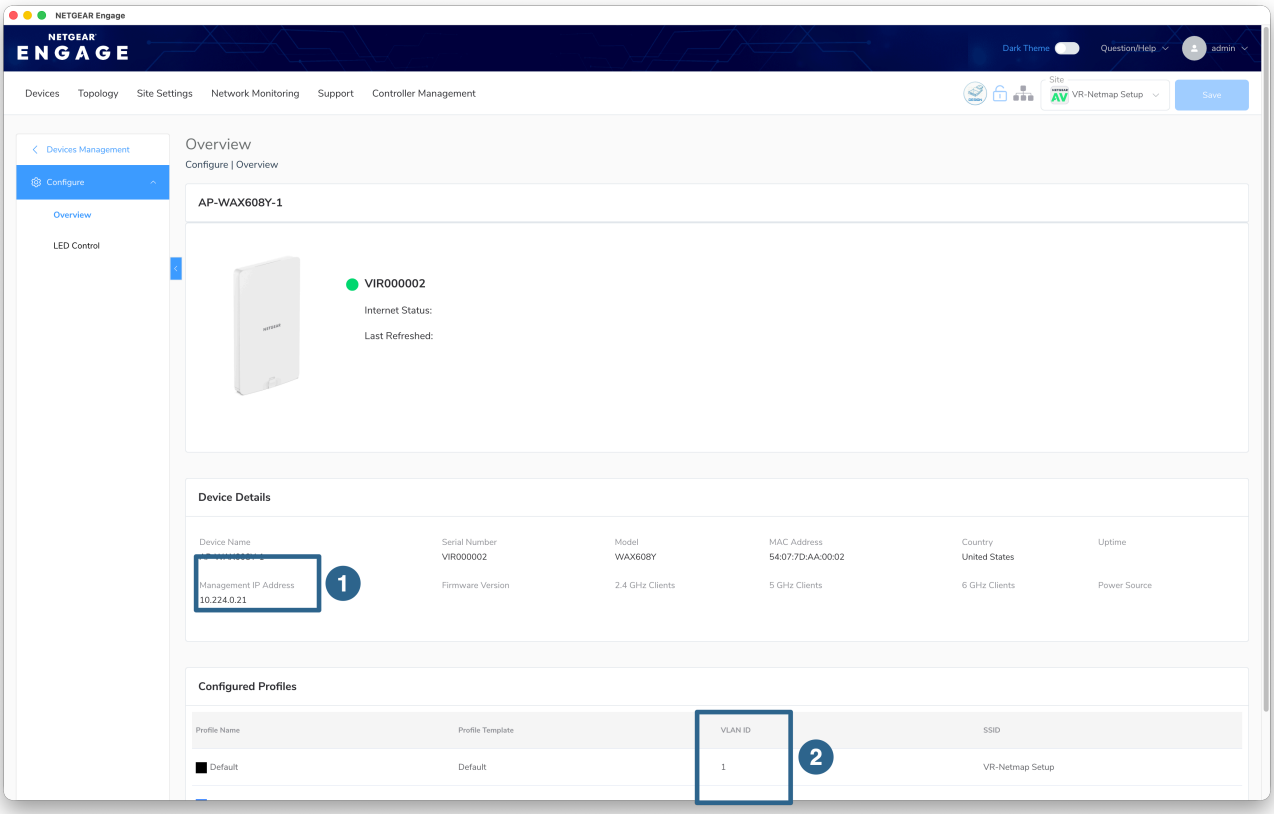
The wireless network is not configured on the AP itself, it is set in Engage — and the quickest way is on the VLAN's own profile, so the SSID lands on that VLAN without you choosing it twice.



Step B — **Devices › Managed Devices**. The boxed cells are the two access points' leased IP addresses, AP-WAX608Y-1 on **10.224.0.21** and AP-WBE758-1 on **10.224.0.31**, and the **Status** that says Engage is talking to them. Those IP addresses came from the pool in Guide 02.

What it looks like once adopted

Engage adopts a NETGEAR access point on its own once the AP has an IP address. From then on the AP is configured from these pages, never from the AP itself.



The AP's own page — **Devices › the AP › Configure › Overview**. **1 Device Details**, where **Management IP Address** shows the IP address it took from the pool. **2 Configured Profiles** below it, listing what this AP broadcasts; the **VLAN ID** column is what decides which VLAN those clients land on, and the first place to look when Wi-Fi works but on the wrong one.

If the AP port did not auto-trunk

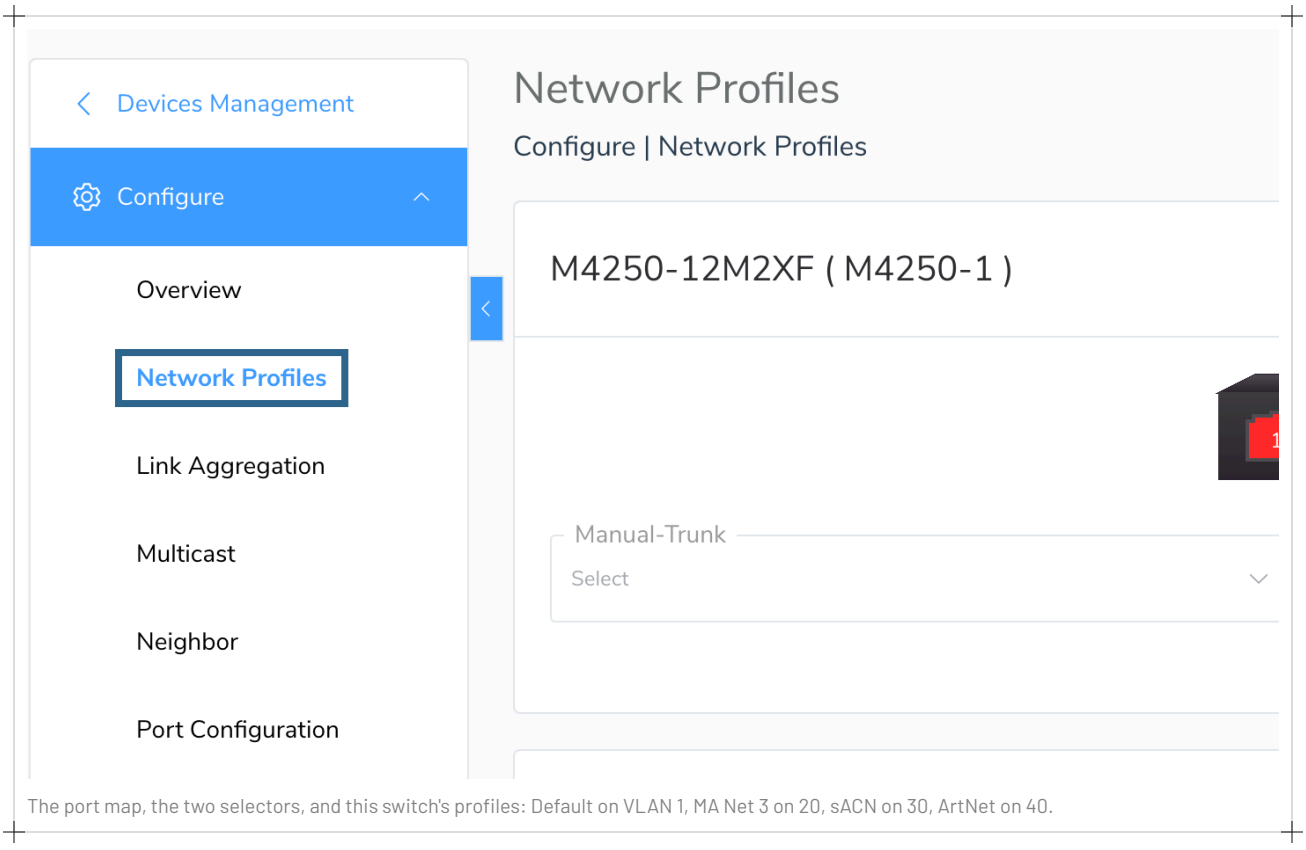
A NETGEAR access point should be recognised on sight and its port auto-trunked, carrying every VLAN. When that does not happen the AP can only ever serve one VLAN, so set the port by hand. These are the same steps as the addendum in Guide 01, run on the AP's port instead of the Mac's.

01

Open the switch's Network Profiles

Engage › Devices › your switch › Configure › Network Profiles

Check the header names the right switch. The port map is colour-coded by profile, and **Configured Profiles** underneath says what those colours mean. Two selectors sit under the map: **Manual-Trunk** is the one you want. **Add-Ports-Untagged-To-Profile** is its opposite — that makes a port a plain access port on one VLAN. Leave **Auto-Trunk** off; you are doing this by hand because the automatic path did not take.



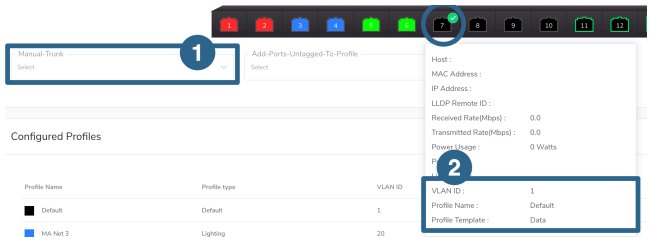
The port map, the two selectors, and this switch's profiles: Default on VLAN 1, MA Net 3 on 20, sACN on 30, ArtNet on 40.

02 Click the AP's port

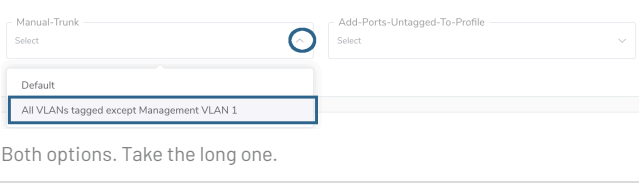
Click the port the access point is plugged into. A green tick appears on it — that is your selection, not a setting. Hover it first to see what it carries today: the tooltip gives **VLAN ID**, **Profile Name** and **Profile Template**. A port that never got trunked reads VLAN ID 1, Default, Data.

03 Manual-Trunk → All VLANs tagged except Management VLAN 1

Open the **Manual-Trunk** selector. It offers **Default** and **All VLANs tagged except Management VLAN 1**. Choose the second. Management stays untagged and every other VLAN rides tagged, which is what an access point needs to put each SSID on its own VLAN.



The port ticked, **1** the **Manual-Trunk** selector to open next, **2** what the port carried before.



Both options. Take the long one.

04 Check the badge, then Save

A success message confirms it, and a small **M** appears under the port on the map — that is how you spot a manual trunk at a glance later. Then press **Save** at the top right of Engage. Until you do, the switch has not been told.

Applied — then Save.

The **M** badge.

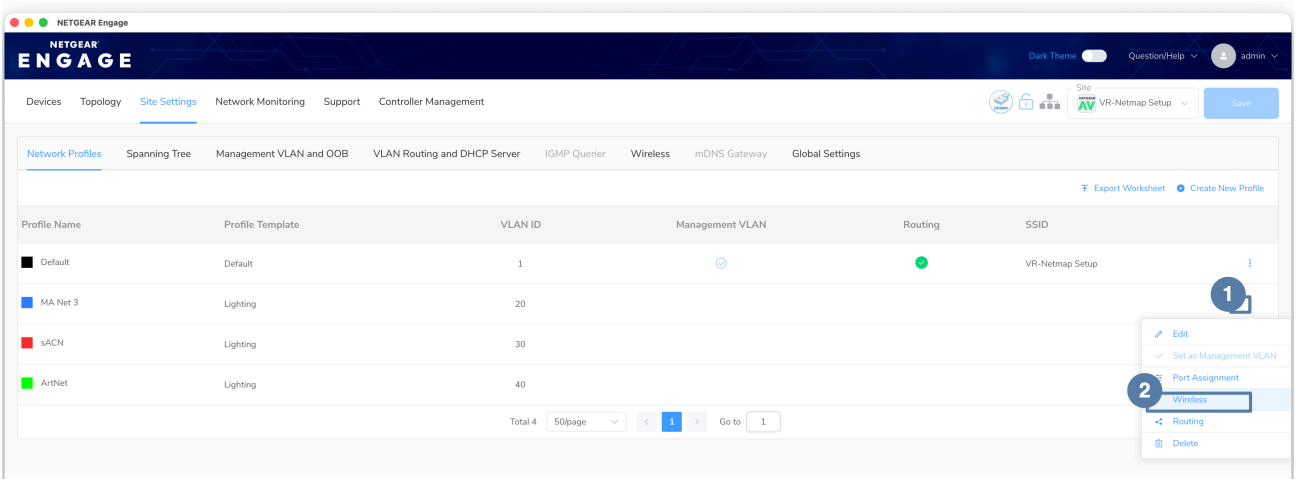
Set up an SSID on a VLAN

There are two ways to make a wireless network land on a particular VLAN. This is the easier one: do it from the VLAN's own profile, and Engage fills the VLAN ID in for you. Five steps.

01 Open the VLAN's Wireless settings

> Site Settings › Network Profiles › the profile's ⋮ menu › Wireless

Find the row for the VLAN the Wi-Fi should sit on and open the ⋮ menu at the far right of it. The menu holds **Edit**, **Set as Management VLAN**, **Port Assignment**, **Wireless**, **Routing** and **Delete**. Choose **Wireless**.

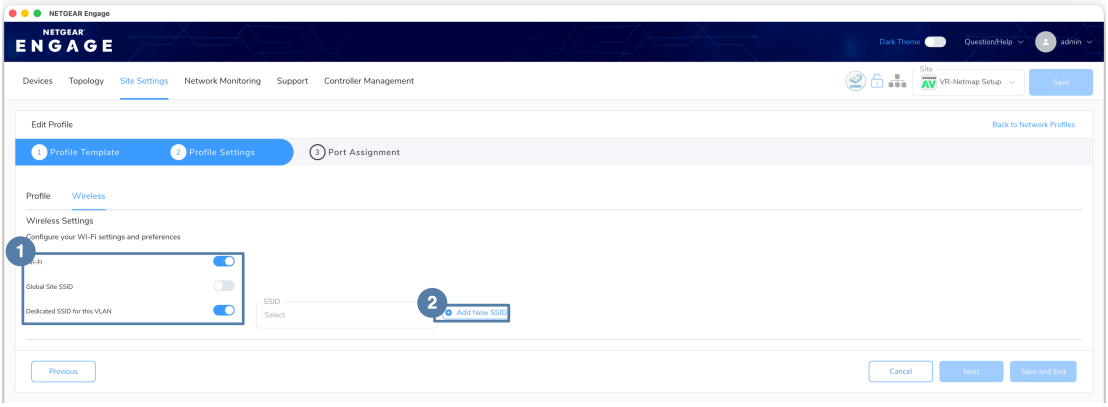


1 the row's ⋮ menu, **2 Wireless** in it. The list also shows what each profile is: Default on VLAN 1 (the management VLAN, ticked), MA Net 3 on 20, sACN on 30, ArtNet on 40.

02 Turn on a dedicated SSID

The **Wireless** tab of the profile has three switches: **Wi-Fi**, **Global Site SSID** and **Dedicated SSID for this VLAN**. Turn **Wi-Fi** on, leave **Global Site SSID** off, and turn **Dedicated SSID for this VLAN** on. **WLAN Status** should read **On**.

An **SSID** selector appears with **Add New SSID** beside it. Click **Add New SSID**.



1 the three switches, **2 Add New SSID**. Global Site SSID stays off — that one would put this Wi-Fi on the site-wide network instead of this VLAN.

03 Fill in the Create New SSID panel

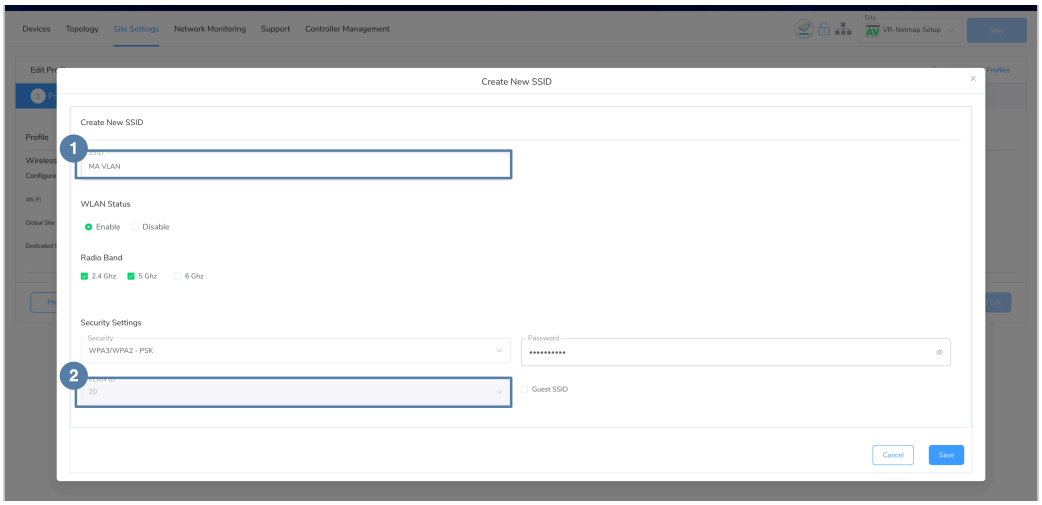
Name the network under **SSID**. Set **WLAN Status** to **Enable**. Tick the bands you want under **Radio Band** — **2.4 Ghz** and **5 Ghz** is the safe pair; **6 Ghz** only if every client supports it. Under **Security Settings** choose a **Security** mode (**WPA3/WPA2 - PSK** is a good default) and type a **Password**.

VLAN ID is already filled in and greyed out — it is this profile's VLAN, which is the whole point of doing it here. Leave **Guest SSID** unticked unless you want client isolation. Click **Save**.

IMPORTANT — YOU STILL NEED A ROUTER

You cannot plug an internet line straight into the switch. Wireless clients that expect internet need a router on the internet VLAN, exactly like a wired machine does. Something has to sit between the incoming line and the show network to hand out IP addresses on the internet VLAN and route traffic out to the world. A NETGEAR switch does not do that job.

Put a router in line. A **NETGEAR PR460X** is the tidy answer because Engage configures it natively alongside the switches. A small travel router such as a **GL.iNet** also does the trick. Either way its WAN side takes the incoming line and its LAN side lands on the internet VLAN — and management and sACN stay routerless.



1 the network name, **2 VLAN ID** already set to this profile's VLAN and not editable. Bands, security mode and password sit between them.

04

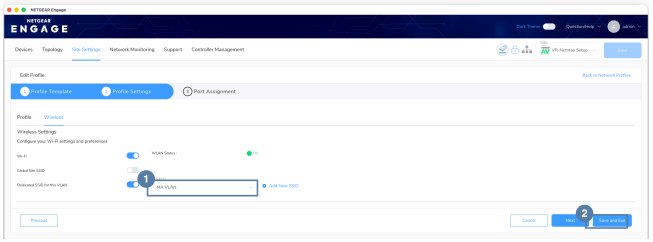
Pick it, then Save and Exit

Back on the **Wireless** tab the new network is selected in the **SSID** box. Press **Save and Exit**. **Next** would take you on to **Port Assignment** instead, which you do not need for this.

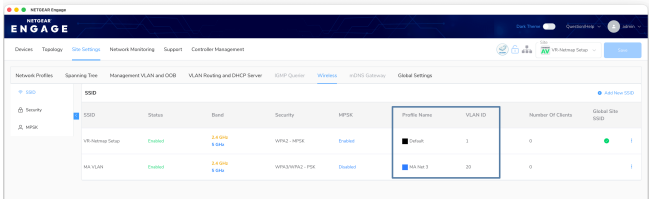
05

Check it landed

Go to **Site Settings › Wireless › SSID**. Every network on the site is listed with its **Profile Name** and **VLAN ID** — that pair is what decides which VLAN its clients sit on. Then press **Save** at the top right of Engage to push it to the hardware.



1 the SSID now chosen for this VLAN, **2 Save and Exit**.



The finished state. One SSID on **Default / VLAN ID 1** — management, no internet — and one on **MA Net 3 / VLAN ID 20**.

The other way round. You can also start in **Site Settings › Wireless › SSID** and use **Add New SSID** there, choosing the profile and VLAN ID yourself. Same result, one more decision to get right — which is why the profile route above is the one to reach for.

When it does not work

WHAT YOU SEE	WHAT IT USUALLY IS
The AP gets no IP address	Its port is not on the management VLAN, or DHCP is not serving. Guide 02 covers both.
The AP got 169.254.x.x	Same answer: it asked and nobody replied.
The AP has an IP address but does not appear in Engage	Give it a minute, then reload. Confirm it is a NETGEAR device this site can adopt, and that you are on the right Site.
Wi-Fi connects, but on the wrong VLAN	The SSID's **Profile Name** points at another VLAN. Check the profile, not the SSID name.
Wi-Fi connects and gets no IP address	The AP's port is not carrying that VLAN. Trunk it — see "If the AP port did not auto-trunk".
The SSID exists but nothing sees it	Radios off for that band, or the site-wide SSID switch is off on the profile.
Nothing changed at all	Apply is not Save. Press Save at the top right.
Settings keep reverting	The site is being configured from two places. Pick Engage or the switch UI, not both.