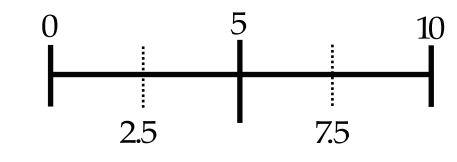
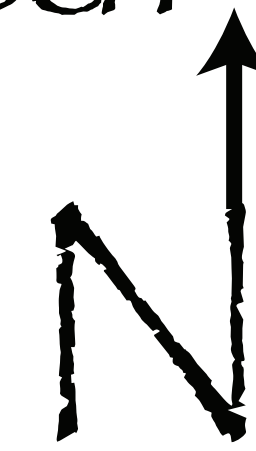


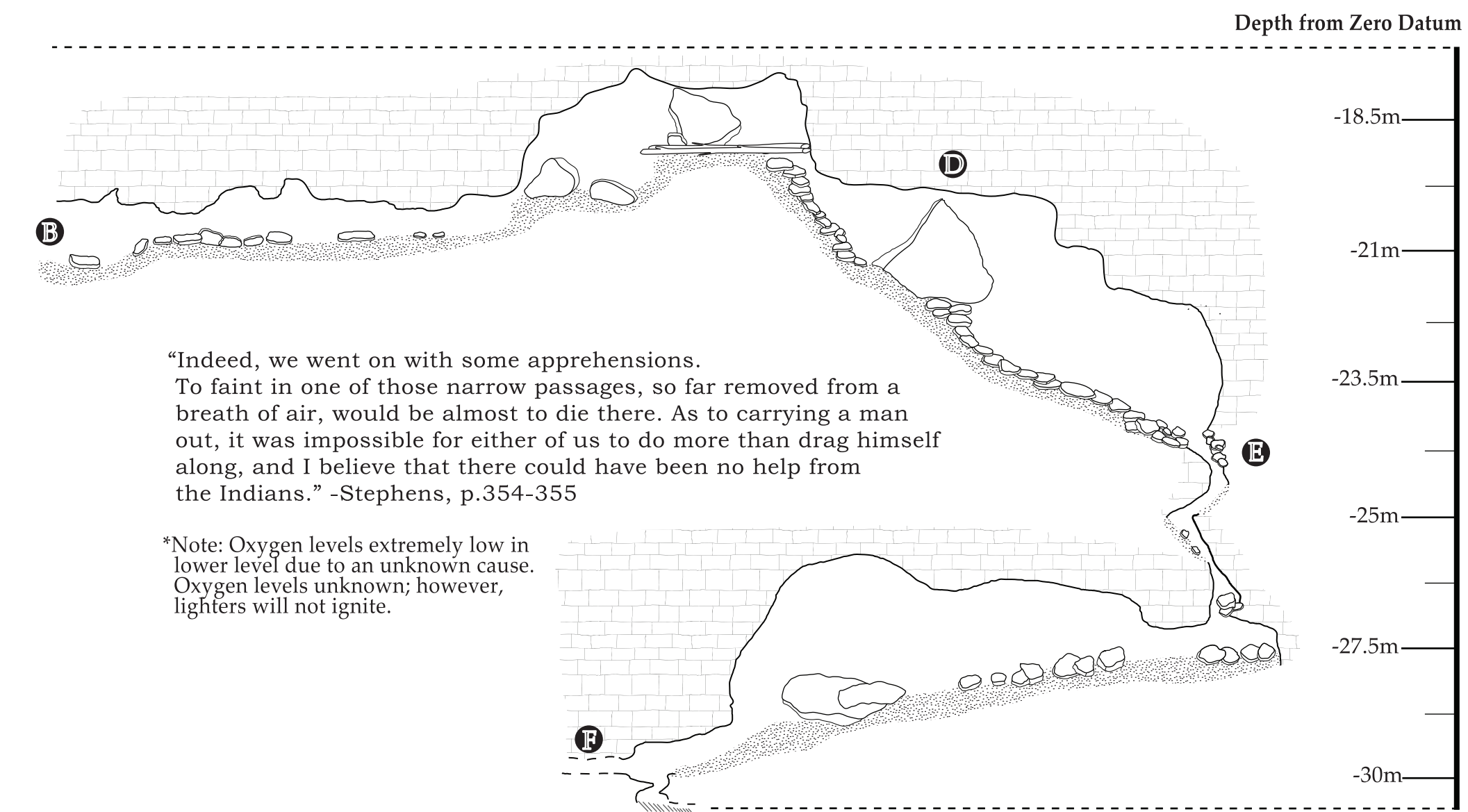
# Actun Xcoch

"Xcoch was but a league distant, and, besides the ruins of buildings, it contained an ancient pozo, or well, of mysterious and marvelous reputation, the fame of which was in everybody's mouth. This well was said to be a vast subterranean structure, adorned with sculptured figures, an immense table of polished stone, and a plaza with columns supporting a vaulted roof, and it was said to have a subterranean road, which led to the village of Mani, twenty-seven miles distant...Not a white man in the place had ever entered it, though several had looked in at the mouth, who said that the wind had taken away their breath, and they had not ventured to go in."  
 -John Lloyd Stephens, Incidents of Travel in the Yucatán, V.1, 1843, p.348



Yucatán, Mexico  
 Magnetic Declination: 1.02  
 Total Surveyed Depth: 32.9 meters from zero datum  
 Total Surveyed Length: 661.0 meters  
 Suunto Compass and Fiberglass Tape

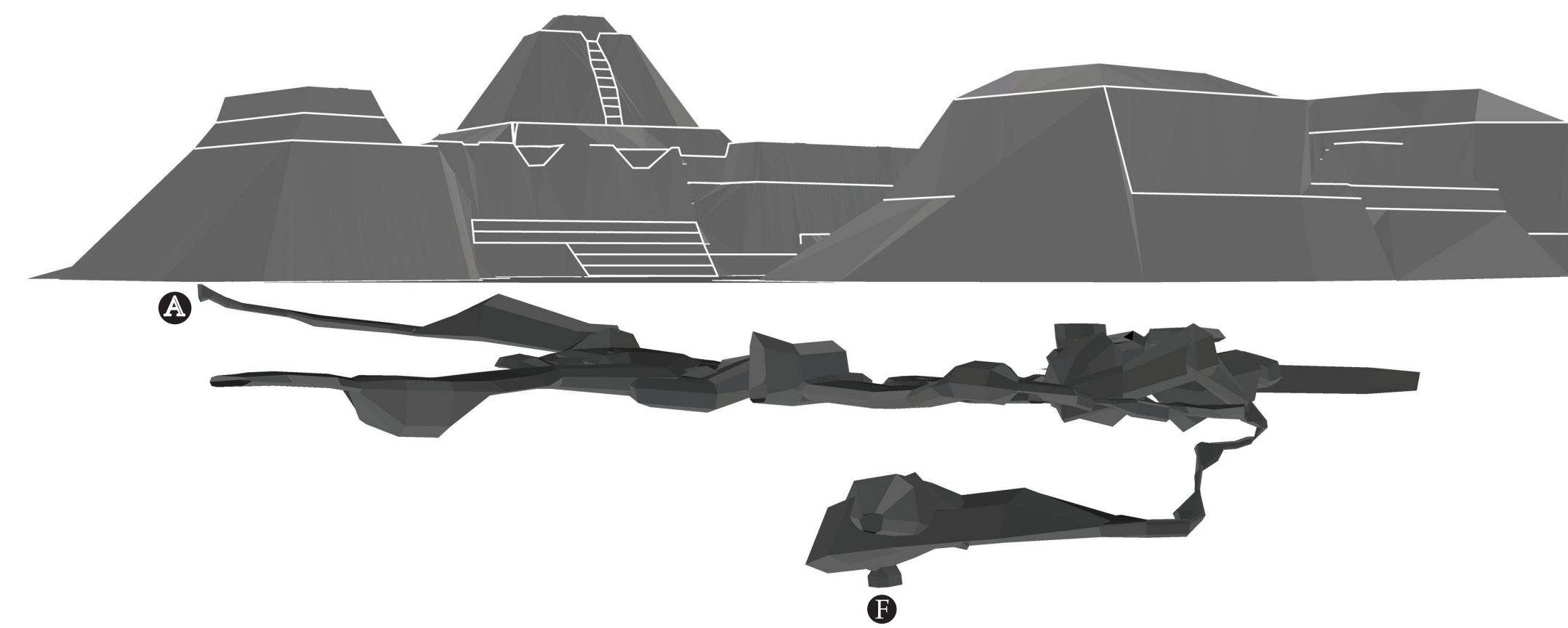
**Surveyors:**  
 Beth Cortright  
 Tammy Otten  
 Dorothy Goepel  
 Harry Goepel  
**Cartographer:**  
 Eric Weaver



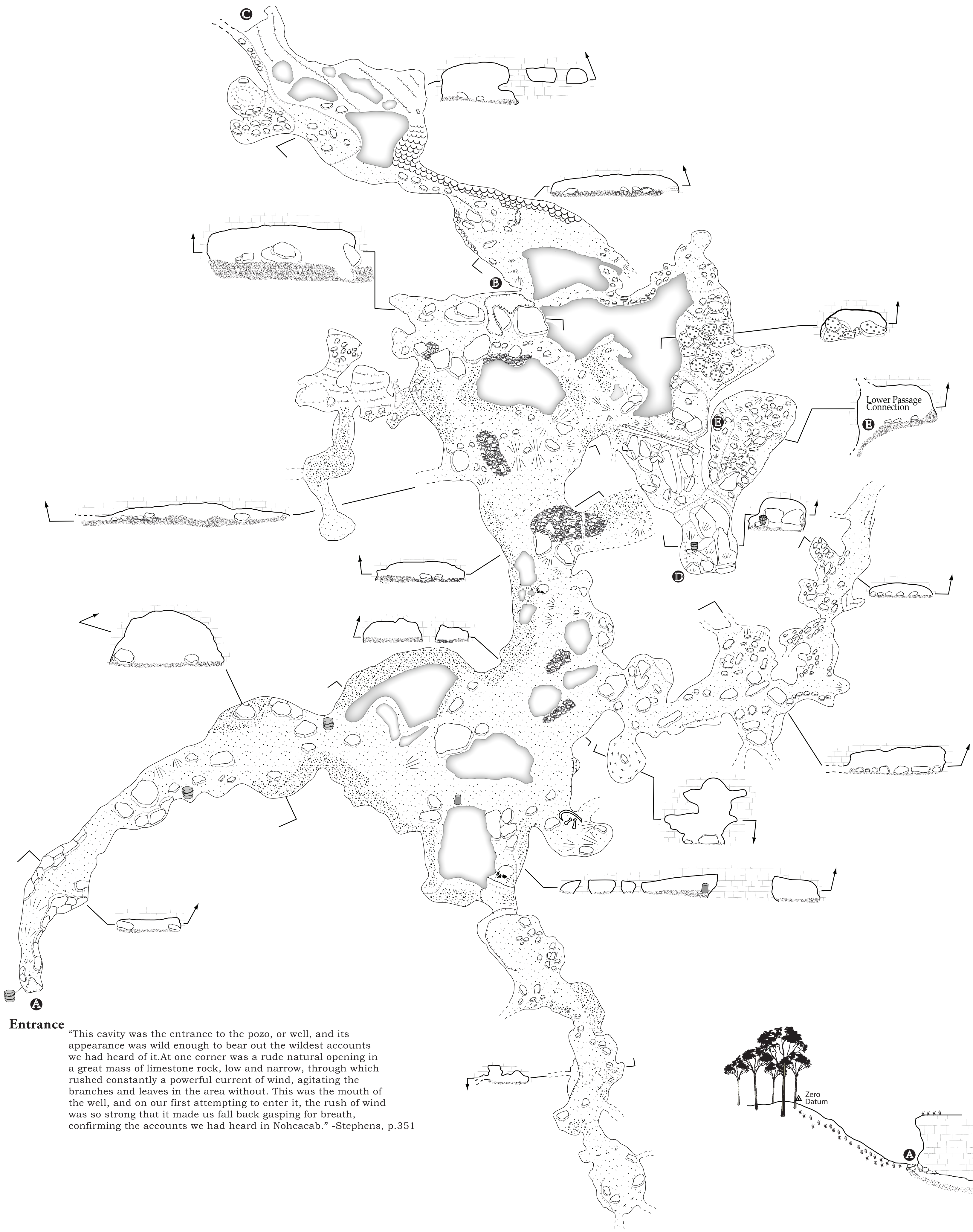
"Indeed, we went on with some apprehensions. To faint in one of those narrow passages, so far removed from a breath of air, would be almost to die there. As to carrying a man out, it was impossible for either of us to do more than drag himself along, and I believe that there could have been no help from the Indians." -Stephens, p.354-355

\*Note: Oxygen levels extremely low in lower level due to an unknown cause. Oxygen levels unknown; however, lighters will not ignite.

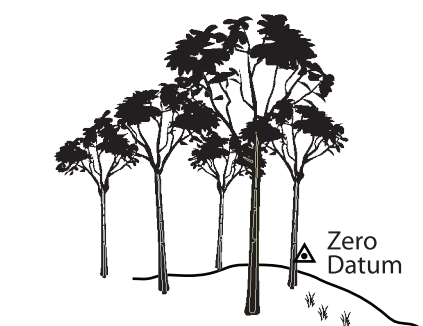
"As a mere cave, this was extraordinary; but as a well or watering-place for an ancient city, it was past belief, except for the proofs under our own eyes. Around it were the ruins of a city without any other visible means of supply..." -Stephens, p.357



Legend	
Cave Walls	
Potential passage	
Drop floor/ceiling	
Bedrock	
Ledge	
Dome	
Mud slope	
Flowstone	
Gypsum	
Water	
Bucket	
Human bones	
Burro bones	
Metate	
Obsidian blade	
Altar	
Rounded stone	
Wood bridge	
Soil	
Rock debris	
Ceramic	
Charcoal	
Bedrock (Cross-section)	



**Entrance**  
 "This cavity was the entrance to the pozo, or well, and its appearance was wild enough to bear out the wildest accounts we had heard of it. At one corner was a rude natural opening in a great mass of limestone rock, low and narrow, through which rushed constantly a powerful current of wind, agitating the branches and leaves in the area without. This was the mouth of the well, and on our first attempting to enter it, the rush of wind was so strong that it made us fall back gasping for breath, confirming the accounts we had heard in Nohcacab." -Stephens, p.351



Actun Xcoch  
 Nohcacab, Mpo. Tekax  
 Yucatán