

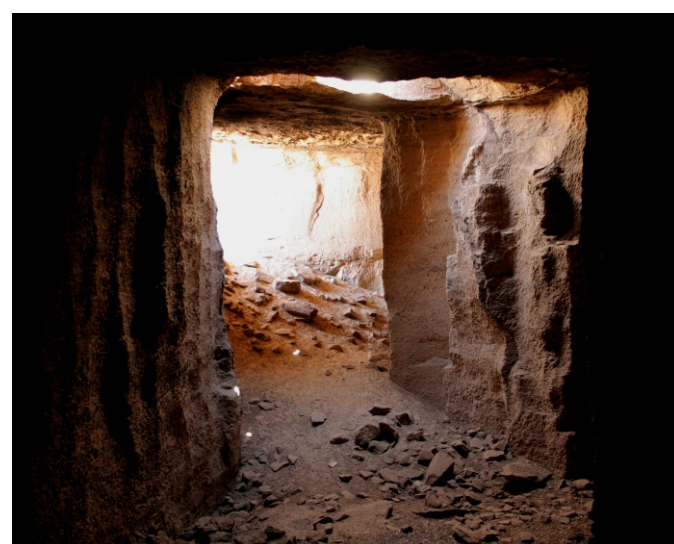


*Tool marks from chisels and graffiti of an obelisk*

Gebel el-Silsila is situated in Upper Egypt near the town of Kom Ombo. Hills of the Nubian Sandstone (Cretaceous) occurring on both sides of the river Nile have been extensively quarried for monumental building stone through several millennia, from the Old Kingdom throughout the Greco-Roman Period. Many of the temples in Upper Egypt, particularly in Luxor and Aswan, are built of stone from this quarry landscape. Quarrying has completely transformed the landscape to a monumental landscape of tall quarry faces, underground gallery quarries and enormous spoil heaps or waste from the workings. Tool marks on the quarry faces display changes in extraction technology through time. The quarry landscape also comprises a richness of inscriptions and graffiti from different periods, and numerous features related to the transport of stone, such as roads, ramps and harbours. Unfinished products are frequently found, linking the quarries to specific building projects. Although not on the high profiled tourist track, a part of the quarry landscape has been facilitated for visitors. (Elizabeth Bloxam & Tom Heldal)



*"Canyon"-like quarry, also used as a transport road to the Nile*



*Gallery quarry*



*Huge spoil heaps from the quarrying*



*The Nile separates to large quarry areas*