



Fig. 160 The western baseline of the Great Pyramid. Beyond the narrow levelled strip of rock beside the baseline – half of which is now covered by the modern road – there is a considerable cut excavated by the pyramid-makers as they quarried out the platform for the Pyramid from the slope of the Plateau. By the tenth year of Khufu's reign, tombs were already being built upon the sloping hillside up above the Pyramid, as some of their building graffiti show (see further pp. 412ff below).



Fig. 161 The levelled area to the north of the Great Pyramid was yet narrower when building started on the Pyramid, before hundreds of tons of building debris were tipped down from the cliff top; the hard rock on which the Pyramid is set barely extends beyond the area covered by the shadow in this photograph.

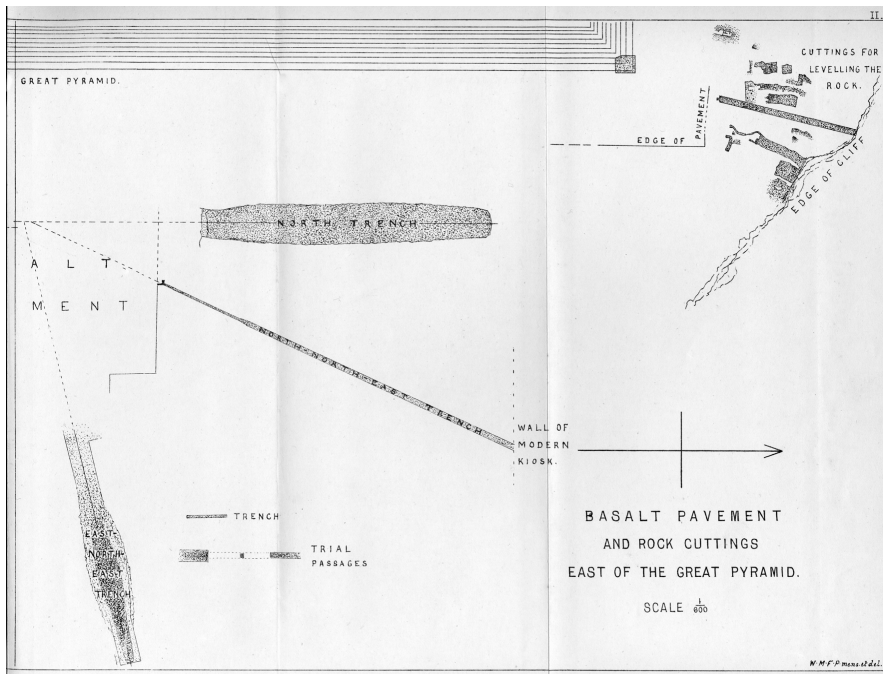


Fig. 162 Petrie's careful plan of the cuttings in the levelled area beside the Great Pyramid's north-eastern baseline, some of which served as survey points in his triangulation of the Giza Plateau. Like Borchardt after him, Petrie considered the Pyramid's eastern baseline to have been the first to have been laid down by the pyramid-makers, hence perhaps his lavish map.