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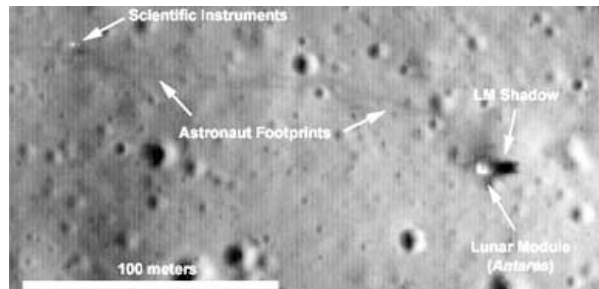
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From The Times

July 18, 2009

## New pictures reveal what Man has left on the Moon



The first imagery of the Apollo moon landing sites returned by NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter

Jacqui Goddard

10 COMMENTS | RECOMMEND? (14)

For four decades it has sat in bleak isolation on the lunar surface, unseen to the human eye and gathering dust. Now, in new photographs released by Nasa, the remainder of the spacecraft that carried Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the final leg of their voyage to the Moon can be seen for the first time, right where they left it.

Nearly 40 years to the day since Armstrong uttered his triumphant "The Eagle has landed", a robotic probe circling the Moon has taken the first snaps of the vessel.

While it may seem just a dot on the landscape, the shadow of the Eagle's base is visible among the craters and boulders where the pair planted mankind's first footsteps on July 20, 1969.

The image is part of a series of photographs shot by the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, an unmanned satellite launched from Florida last month as part of a \$580 million exploratory mission to map the Moon in new detail.



**Times Archive**  
**1969 Man takes first steps on the moon**

The spectacular moment

Scientists admit that they had not expected such good images so early. "Obviously we're thrilled. It was very exciting to see this hardware still preserved on the surface, just like if you went to Rome and saw the Colosseum," Professor Mark Robinson, of Arizona State University, one of the lead scientists involved in the project, told *The Times*. "This is a

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### SPACE EXPLORATION



### Video special: the story of the Apollo 11 moon landing

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- Audio: The moon landing as recorded in Britain
- NASA restores original moon landing footage

### SCIENCE CENTRAL

The spectacular moment came at 3.56 am: "That's one small step for man but one giant leap for mankind"

Topic: Men on the Moon

fitting tribute to the *Apollo 11* mission that first put Man on the Moon."

Other shots beamed down — all taken between July 11 and 15 — show the landing sites of all but one of the lunar landing missions that followed *Apollo 11*. In the case of the *Apollo 14* site, where Alan Shepard teed off two golfballs after landing with his colleague Edgar Mitchell in

January 1971, even the footprints of the astronauts and the marks made in the dust while trundling a wheelbarrow carrying Moon rocks are still visible.

"With photographing *Apollo 11*, we were right near the lunar sunset so the ground is very stark. With *Apollo 14*, the sun was getting higher in the sky, so you can actually see the astronauts' tracks," Professor Robinson said.

All the spacecraft that landed on the Moon blasted off again to carry the crews back to their command modules, leaving only their "descent stages" standing on the surface.

LRO will orbit the Moon to take shots of potential future landing sites for Man to return by 2020. "What I'm looking forward to is not celebrating what we did in the past but making the future happen. It's time we put the past in the past, move on, and get humans back on the Moon," Professor Robinson said.

"It would be great for the 50th anniversary to have an astronaut walking on the surface, taking a picture of these artefacts and maybe using the parts to build the first human settlement on the Moon."

PRINT EMAIL 

#### YOUR COMMENTS

10 Comments (Displaying 1-10)

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#### Steven K wrote:

What a relief! From the title of the article I expected to read about Coke cans and food wrappers ...

July 18, 2009 8:42 PM BST

RECOMMEND? (1)

#### Farrukh Imran wrote:

Wouldn't it have been interesting if they had been moved :)

July 18, 2009 7:05 PM BST

RECOMMEND? (1)

#### Kevin Law wrote:

As a student I was lucky enough to help analyse some of the moon rock brought back to Earth. The minerals in the rocks could be measured to have formed under roughly 1/6th Earth gravity. The same as the gravity on the moon. These minerals were NOT formed under Earth gravity or the zero gravity of space. But then no doubt people like me and all my mates at Univeristy are also in on the conspiracy. Hell of a lot of people in on conspiracy eh ?

July 18, 2009 4:16 PM BST

RECOMMEND? (3)

#### Tim Robinson wrote:

@diane jai-cale: You are correct there is no wind on the moon. But, the flag isn't blowing around. It has a rod running along the top of it to keep it horizontal. The wave in the flag occurred because the top edge of the flag didn't run down the complete length of the rod. Since there is no wind on the moon the wave has been there from the moment they planted the flag.

July 18, 2009 3:05 PM BST

RECOMMEND? (1)

**Mark Strouthes wrote:**

The earth is flat, too - the moon is made of cheese - and we turn gold into lead all the time. Come on...

July 18, 2009 2:21 PM BST

RECOMMEND? (2)

**Jerry Scroggin wrote:**

The detractors will claim the pictures are "faked" just like the pictures of the landing on the moon.

July 18, 2009 12:59 PM BST

RECOMMEND? (3)

**andy poulton wrote:**

@diane jai-cale Both the moon AND the earth get their "natural" light from the same place - the sun. The sun is the light source that makes shadows.

The reason man went to the moon is summed up in the phrase "The space race". like other Cold War races (fastest plane, highest flying plane, longest range missile, biggest nuclear bang" the race to the moon was a race to demonstrate technical superiority over the Russians. The job was done, no more input required - therefore no more men on the moon.

Perhaps the recent attention to putting men back in to space (other than the low earth orbit of the ISS) is that the Chinese and others are looking to muscle in now. Another Space Race anyone?

July 18, 2009 11:07 AM BST

RECOMMEND? (6)

**diane jai-cale wrote:**

dont believe it...  
moon has no natural light, no astmosphere..  
how can the pics av shadows, explain how the flag blows..no wind.. explain.  
astro science has moved forward in the last 40yrs..fact !!  
why has man never been back to the moon since... explain !!!!  
plz

July 18, 2009 5:50 AM BST

RECOMMEND? (5)

**Simon Smith wrote:**

So - man leaves his discarded junk lying around where he last used it in other parts of the solar system too, not just here on Earth!

July 17, 2009 11:36 PM BST

RECOMMEND? (5)

**Ian Dickson wrote:**

This will put paid to all those conspiracy theories that the moon landings were faked - or will it?

July 17, 2009 9:58 PM BST

RECOMMEND? (13)

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