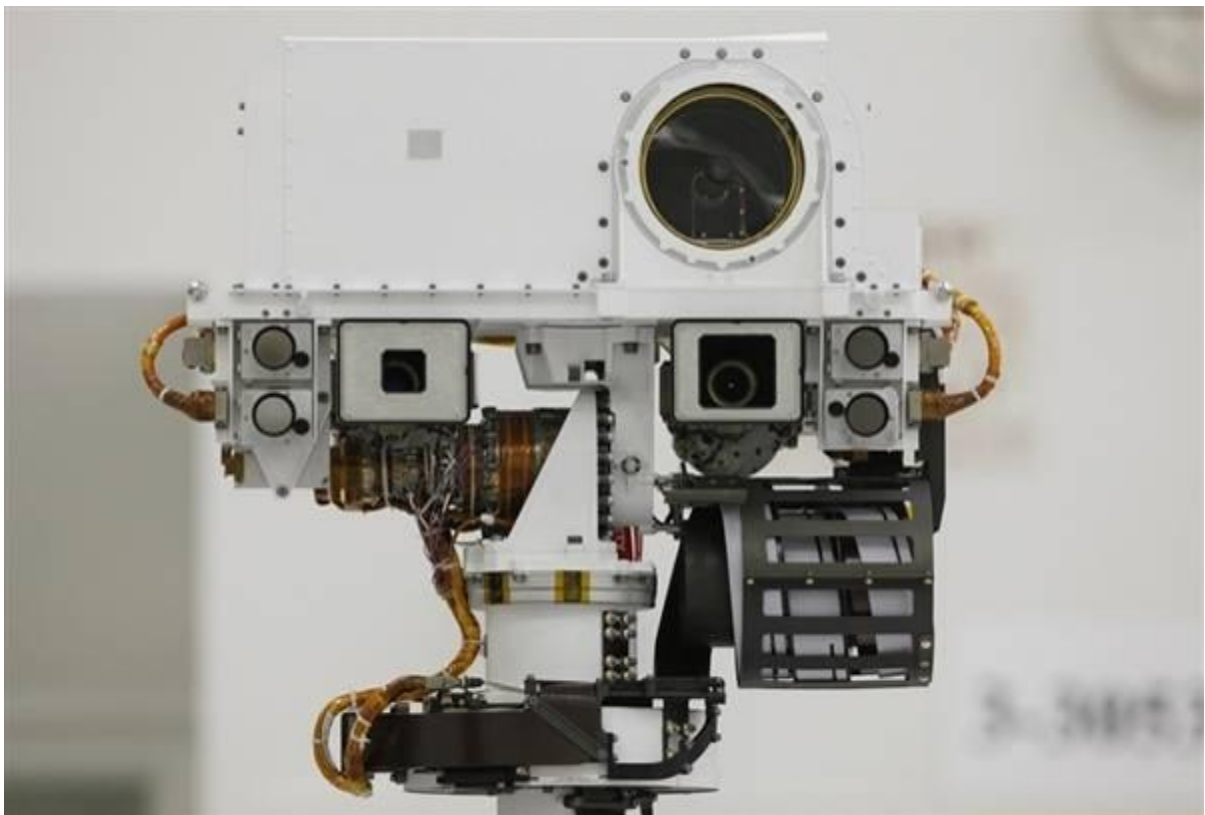


A Hypothesis : The Opportunity and Curiosity Mars Rovers are Situated on Earth

Author : Richard D. Hall

Research by Douglas Gibson & Richard D. Hall



© November 2014

This is a **DRAFT** document subject to review and update by those concerned.

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION

2. MARS EXPLORATION

3. OPPORTUNITY ROVER

4. CURIOSITY ROVER

5. MARS ROVER VEHICLE DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING

6. THE CURIOSITY TEAM

7. PHOTOGRAPHS FROM MARS ROVERS AND LANDERS

- 7.1 Wildlife Images**
- 7.2 Plant Life Images**
- 7.3 Fossil Images**
- 7.4 Moving Artefacts**
- 7.5 Evidence of NASA Image Tampering**
- 7.6 Impossible Cleaning**
- 7.7 Colours**
- 7.8 Impossible Weather**

8. EVIDENCE OF FAKED PHOTOGRAPHY OF PREVIOUS NASA MISSIONS

9. EARTH BASED FIELD TESTING SITES

- 9.1 Devon Island Test Site**
- 9.2 Hanksville Utah Test Site**
- 9.3 Spitsbergen Test Site**

10. THE MARS SOCIETY

11. CONCLUSION

1. INTRODUCTION

This document is a collection of evidence, which builds a hypothesis that,

“The Mars exploration rovers are not situated on the surface of Mars, and never left the Earth”

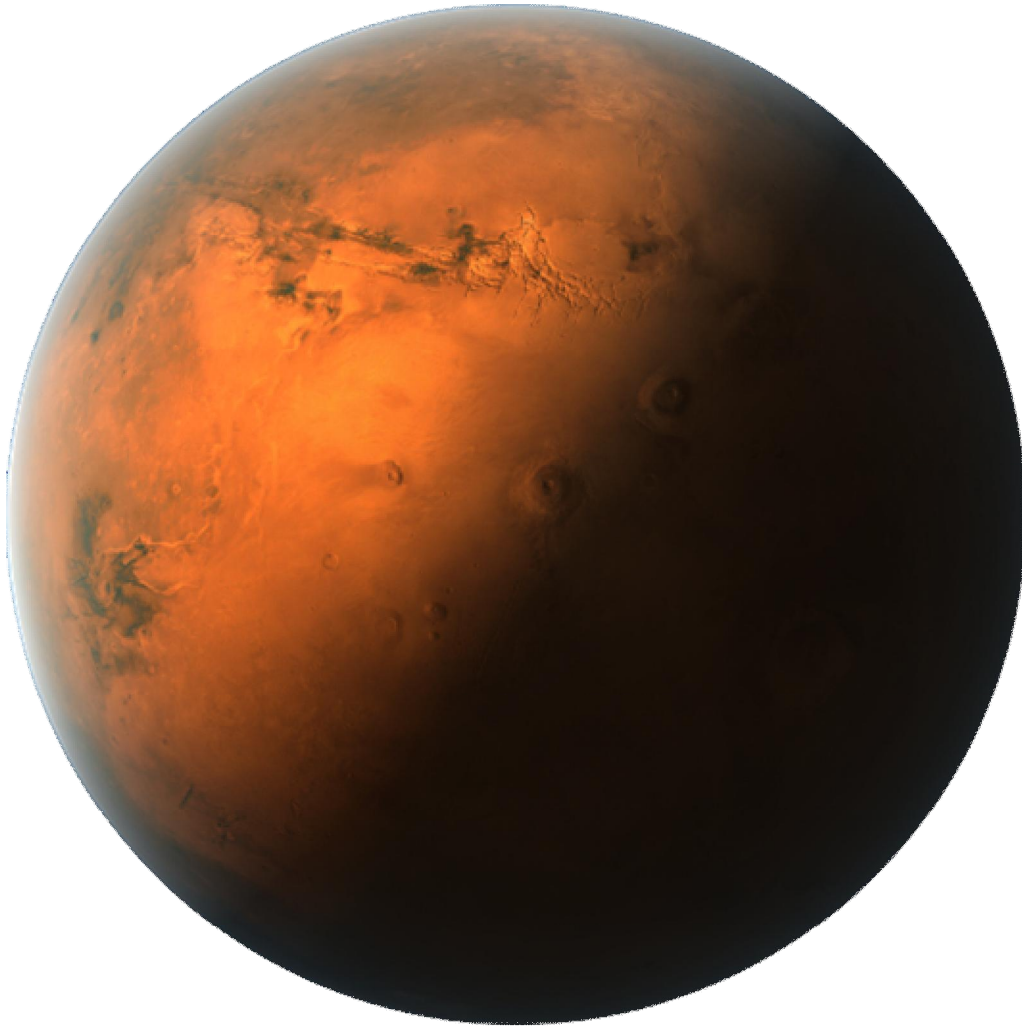
The hypothesis may seem preposterous to anyone who is not familiar with the evidence contained within this document, therefore I would encourage readers to consider ALL of the evidence contained herein before dismissing the hypothesis. Evidence for the hypothesis comes from analysis of data which has been published primarily by NASA. If the hypothesis can be proven, the implications are very serious for mankind, which are discussed in the final chapter. The purpose of the document is to stimulate a public debate on the issue and stimulate further research which can establish whether the hypothesis is true. The issue was first brought to my attention by researcher Douglas Gibson of London, who approached me on 3rd August 2014 when I was giving a lecture in London at the Crown Moran Hotel in Cricklewood. In the short time available Douglas explained his hypothesis and also outlined some of the evidence he had been studying. Douglas has a degree in biochemistry and also interests in aviation, astronomy and theosophy. A few weeks later I visited Douglas in London to go through his evidence in more detail. After this meeting, I came to the view that some of the evidence is quite compelling and decided the best way forward was to produce a document which sets out the hypothesis and contains all the relevant information. The document is a working draft and is subject to changes once the material has been evaluated and discussed by all parties concerned.

If we accept all the information put out by NASA, the exploration of space is a straightforward affair, which does not have a hidden agenda. There is evidence, however, which is outside the scope of this document, which suggests that other organisations such as the U.S. Air Force and the N.S.A. (National Security Agency) over several decades have designed and developed their own clandestine space faring hardware. Some allege this hardware has been used to for space exploration without the knowledge of the majority of the U.S. government or the knowledge of the citizenry of the world. The reason why I raise this point is to demonstrate that the real purpose of NASA may be different to what most people perceive, including those who work for NASA. If there are secret space technologies which the majority of NASA personnel do not know about, then NASA, the main public facing organisation, is effectively helping to conceal the truth about these technologies. It is important that all the information being put out by organisations such as NASA be scrutinised to see if it has veracity. If it does not have veracity, then the evidence should be given exposure. Many people having read this far will probably be dismissive because they cannot see a reason why an organisation like NASA would be involved in such a fraud. To condemn the hypothesis on that basis is unscientific and frankly very naïve. If the hypothesis is true, then we can address the possible reasons why it is true after we have proven it to be true. This is a mindset that unfortunately many people fall into and is summarised by the expression, “Investigation before condemnation”.

There are a number of researchers who claim that certain photographs taken by the Mars rovers have been tampered with to make the sky look red or orange. They have shown that if the colour is corrected using graphics software, the sky is in fact blue, very much like the earth. They then jump to the conclusion that the Martian sky is therefore really blue and NASA are hiding this from the public. This argument however may be based on a flawed assumption: that the rovers are taking photograph of Mars. If the rovers were actually taking photographs from the surface of the Earth, would the reason for NASA colouring the sky red or orange not seem more logical? The reason why NASA are colouring the images of the sky could be to conceal the fact that they were taken on Earth. The same argument can also be applied to the work of Charles Schultz, author of “The Fossil Hunters Guide to Mars”. He contends that some of the photographs taken by the Mars rovers contain identifiable fossils, some of which we will examine later in this document. He has compared the Mars rover fossil images with fossils found on earth, and concluded that Mars has fossils all over the surface, which are

similar, if not identical to those found on earth. Shultz concludes that Mars's surface contains fossils. Again, another explanation for Schultz's evidence could be that the photographs he has studied were actually taken on Earth. If somebody showed you a photograph of an Earthlike fossil from Shultz's book, and asked you where the photograph was taken, would you say Mars?, probably not. As you will see in this document there are a number of images which have been published by NASA from the Mars rovers which seem to contain objects common to the Earth. These objects are not usually immediately obvious at first glance. This could be because all images are checked before they are published and therefore only small or semi concealed imagery slips through the net, so to speak. That said, in my opinion some of the images are compelling and suggest strongly they were taken from the surface of the Earth.

Figure 1 – Planet Mars



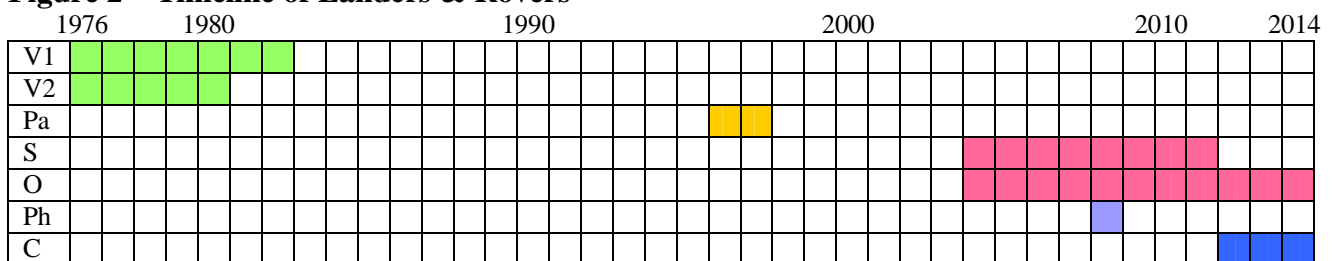
2. MARS EXPLORATION

As Mars is easily visible to the naked eye it is not really possible to say when Mars was discovered. After the invention of the telescope in the 1600's, Christian Huygens in 1659 discovered features on the planet, one of which was named Sytris Major. In 1877 Giovanni Schiaparelli discovered what he claimed were several lines crossing each other and suggested they were canals. Also in 1877 Asaph Hall discovered the two small moons of Mars and named them Phobos which means fear and Deimos which means panic, named after the horses which pull the chariot of the Roman God, Mars. In the 1950's some astronomers argued that observations of Mars showed possible plant life. The colouring of the surface appeared to change over time possibly representing seasons. Over the next few decades this theory was to become almost redundant due to more detailed images which most experts contended showed a dead planet. According to official figures, since the 1960's there have been no fewer than 44 attempted unmanned missions to Mars. Of these, 11 never left Earth orbit, 5 malfunctioned on the way to Mars, 7 crashed or malfunctioned on the surface of Mars, 4 flew past Mars, 11 successfully orbited Mars and 6 successfully landed on Mars. A low success rate for these missions and I would note that some of the reasons for failure seem highly implausible, such as "crashed on surface due to metric imperial mix up". The table below summarises the successful unmanned missions to Mars.

Table 1 – Summary of Successful Mars Missions

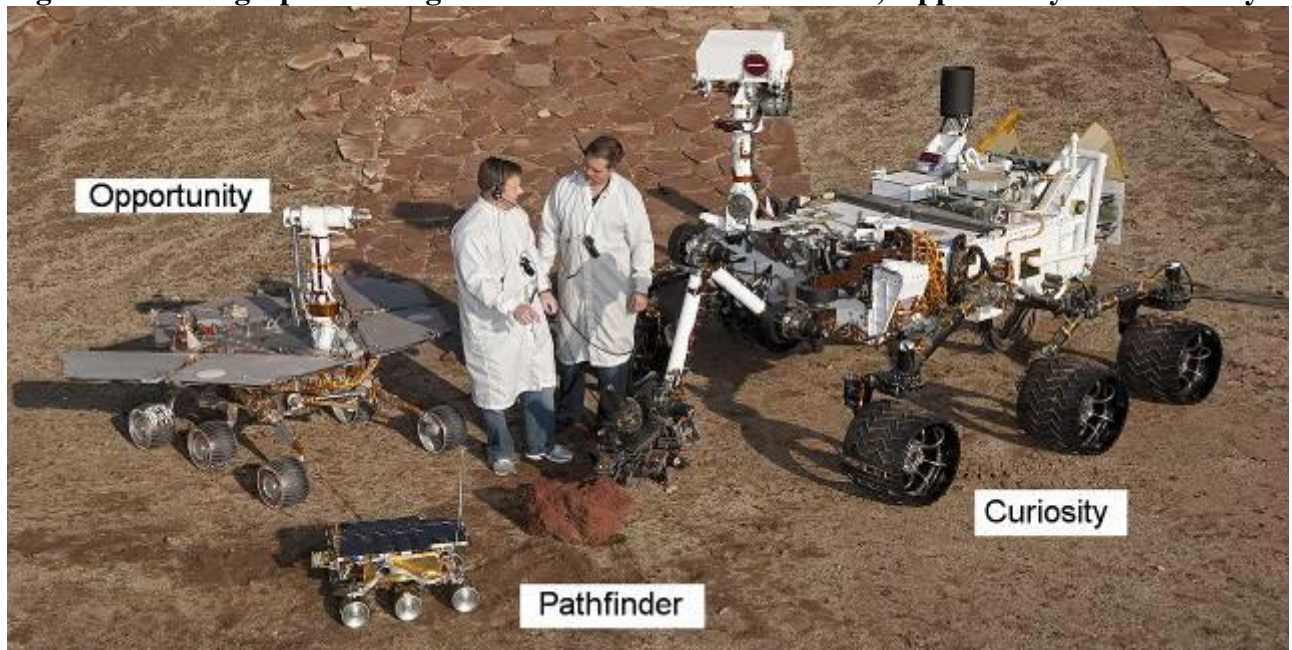
Year	Mission	Agency	Type	Data / Function	Status
1964	Mariner 4	NASA	Fly By	21 photographs	Ended '67
1969	Mariner 6 & 7	NASA	Fly By	201 photographs 20% of surface	Ended '69
1971	Mariner 9	NASA	Orbit	7,329 photographs, 85% surface	Ended '72
1971	Mars 2/3	Soviet	Orbit	60 photographs	Ended '72
1976	Viking 1	NASA	Lander	Surface images, soil sampling	Ended '82
1976	Viking 2	NASA	Lander	Surface images, soil sampling	Ended '80
1989	Phobos 2	Soviet	Orbit	Photographs	Ended '89
1996	Global Surveyor	NASA	Orbit	Study surface and weather	Ended '06
1996	Pathfinder	NASA	Rover	Photographs, soil / weather anal.	Ended '97
2001	2001 Odyssey	NASA	Orbit	Spectroscopy / water	Active
2003	Mars Express	ESA	Orbit	Spectroscopy / photographs	Active
2004	Spirit	NASA	Rover	Photographs / geology	Ended '11
2004	Opportunity	NASA	Rover	Photographs / geology	Active
2006	Reconnaissance	NASA	Orbit	Analyse landforms, weather etc	Active
2008	Phoenix	NASA	Lander	Search suitable env. for life	Ended '08
2012	Curiosity	NASA	Rover	Investigate habitability	Active
2014	Mars Obiter	ISRO	Orbit	Imaging & atmospheric studies	Active
2014	Maven	NASA	Orbit	Study atmosphere	Active

Figure 2 – Timeline of Landers & Rovers



V – Viking, Pa – Pathfinder, S – Spirit, O – Opportunity, Ph – Phoenix, C – Curiosity

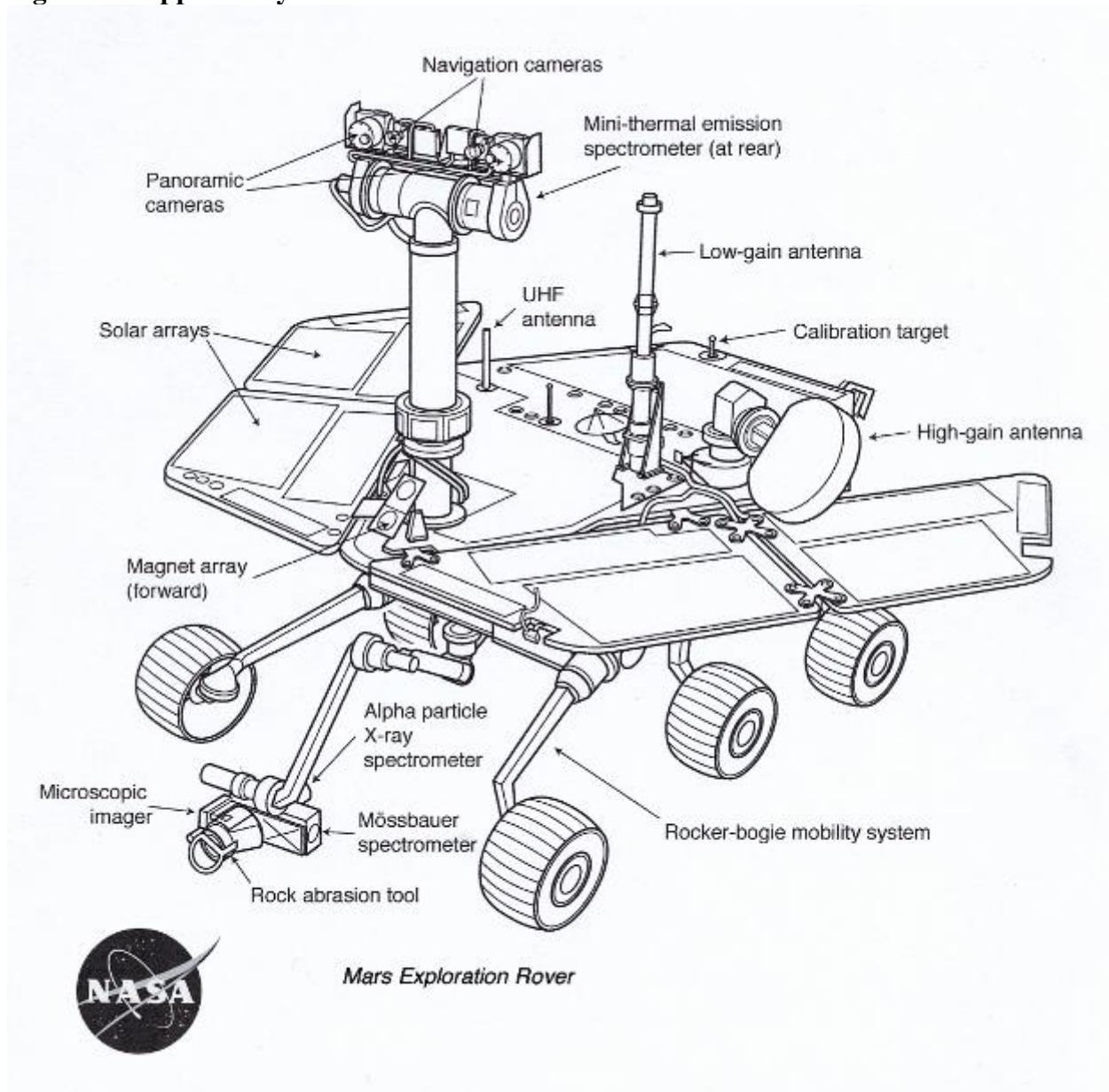
Figure 3 – Photograph Showing the Relative Sizes of Pathfinder, Opportunity and Curiosity



In this document we are going to look mainly at images from the two Rovers that are allegedly currently active on the surface of Mars, and also a small selection of images from redundant missions. The Opportunity rover has been active since 2004 and is still sending images back to the Earth. Incredibly it has exceeded its operational planned life expectancy by over 10 years. An identical rover, Spirit, was launched in the same time frame, but communication was lost in May 2011.

3. OPPORTUNITY ROVER

Figure 4 – Opportunity Rover



The vehicle has 6 wheels, each with its own independent electric motors. It is steered by both the front and back wheels and is designed to operate safely on slopes of up to 30 degrees. The solar panels can generate 140 watts, which is not much more than an electric light bulb, for 4 hours each day. The rover is powered by rechargeable lithium ion batteries which provide the power for the motors and all the equipment on board. These type of batteries are widely used on Earth in laptops, mobile phones and power tools. The rovers operating temperature range is -40 to +40 degrees centigrade. Radioisotope heaters provide a base level of heating assisted by electrical heaters were necessary. The average surface temperature on Mars is estimated to be -55 degrees centigrade. At the equator the temperature varies from 20 degrees C down to -73 degrees C. This is 33 degrees lower than the minimum operating temperature of the rover. I have not carried out detailed calculations on the power system of this vehicle, but I find it difficult to believe that lithium ion batteries, being charged by small solar panels would keep all the devices on this rover powered for over 10 years. It is claimed the vehicle consumes only 100 watts of power when it is in operation. For comparison, a typical sewing machine uses 100 watts, a hedge trimmer 450 watts and an electric drill 700 watts. The rover carries

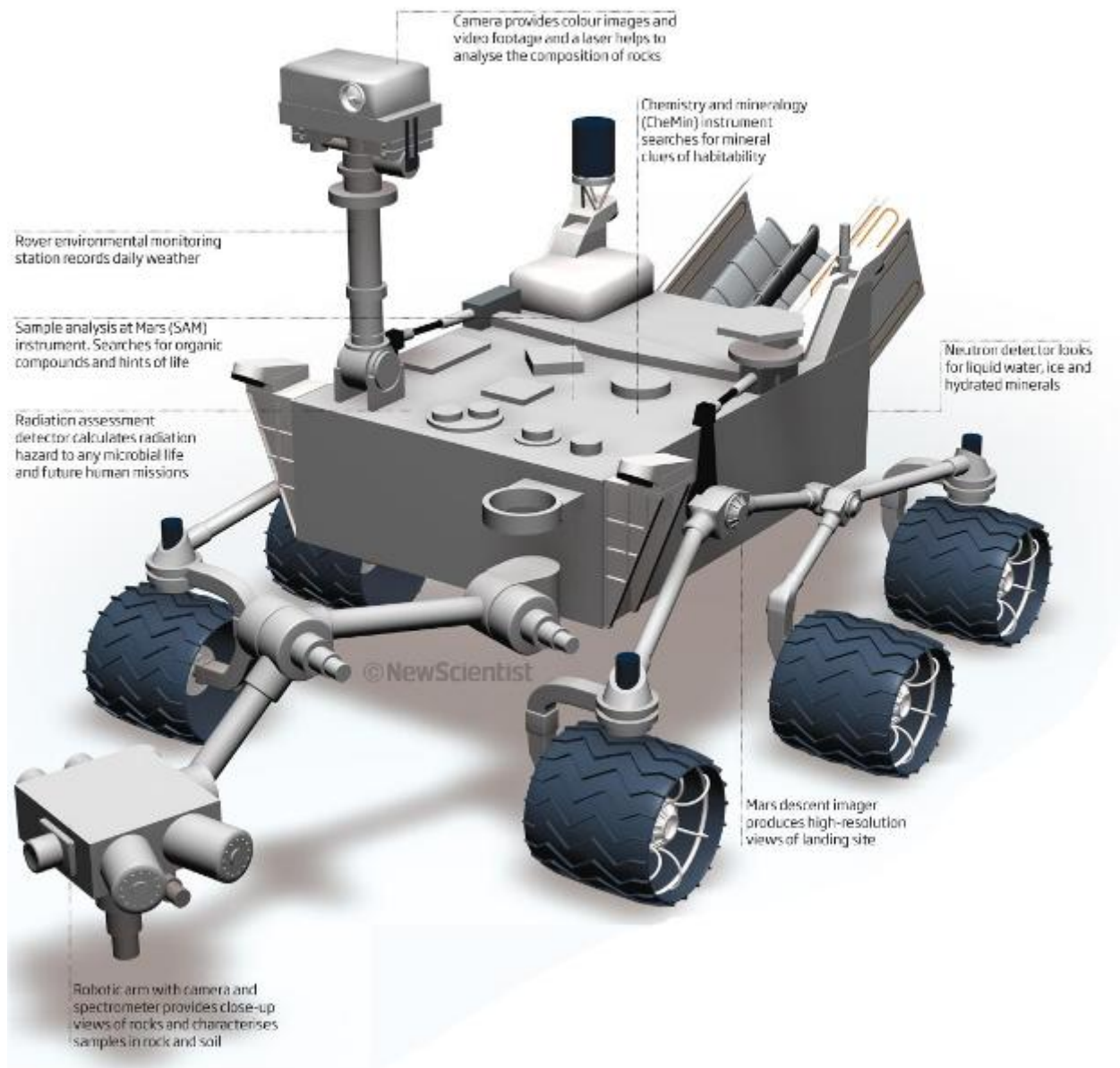
many instruments, batteries, solar panels, and moves using 6 electric powered wheels against harsh environmental conditions, but only consumes the same amount of power as a sewing machine. It weighs 185 kilos, which is heavier than the weight of two average sized adults. Taking into account that gravity on Mars is only 3.71 m/s/s, which is 2.6 times less than on Earth, the effective weight of the rover would be around 70 kilos, which is about the weight of a small adult. In order to draw another comparison, we can consider a mobility scooter, which when ferrying a 70 kilo adult on Earth, will typically consume between 300 and 600 watts of power. The mobility scooter is designed for even surfaces such as pathways, whereas the Opportunity rover encounters uneven random terrain. Does it seem plausible that 100 watts would be enough to power this device? – and that batteries could last over 10 years?

Figure 5 – Mobility Scooter – Typical Power Requirements 300 to 600 Watts



4. CURIOSITY ROVER

Figure 6 – Diagram of Curiosity Rover



The other vehicle which is allegedly currently active on the surface of Mars is the Curiosity Rover. Much larger than its predecessor it is approximately the size of a car. Power is provided by a radio isotope electric generator, hence there is no need for solar panels. It is interesting to note that the Opportunity rover only had radio isotope heaters, not a radio isotope electric generator. While it seems plausible that a radio isotope generator could provide enough energy to power the Curiosity Rover, the Opportunity Rover seems unfit for purpose by comparison. Further research into the power capabilities of radio isotope electric generators might ascertain whether such a device is capable or not of powering a 899 Kilo rover.

5. MARS ROVER VEHICLE DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING

Where were the Mars rovers designed, developed and tested? They were developed by the Jet Propulsion Labs which is situated in California. Most information which is publicly available appears to be a publicity exercise, rather than revealing detailed information about the design, specification and testing of each component. Where are the signed off test procedures which would show evidence that detailed tests may have been carried out? There are videos available produced by NASA showing some alleged testing. One example is the “drop test”, which was witnessed by the whole team who proceeded to clap their hands on seeing the rover lowered to the ground on wires. Short video interviews are also available with certain team leaders explaining particular aspects of the development phases. I would expect the testing to be carried out by a completely different part of NASA, or even another company. One very important principle in engineering design and testing is that the group devising the tests should not communicate with or work with the group carrying out the design. This is because it is possible for somebody to misinterpret the requirements, and if this misinterpretation is passed to other members of the team, who are involved in preparing the test procedures, it can result in a design which passes the tests, but fails to comply with the requirements. Standard engineering practice is to have an engineer or engineers read the requirements specifications, who do not talk to the design team, and then devise test procedures to be conducted which determine whether the product complies with the requirements. In my experience, a requirements document would typically contain hundreds of mandatory requirements specified in great detail. The job of the engineer writing the test procedures would be first to understand every requirement, and second devise a separate numbered test for every detailed requirement. Test procedure documentation would probably run into thousands of pages for a device like a Mars rover. Every subcomponent would have its own separate tests. Tests would normally also be witnessed by a third party independent of both the design and test departments, usually referred to as consultants, just to make sure no cheating is involved. At Rolls Royce where I worked, the test department were kept separate from the engineering design departments for very good reasons. In fact, there would occasionally be friction between the design and test departments and between design and test engineers. It appears from the NASA videos that this sort of engineering practice was not used by NASA. It looks as though they are all working as on big team. As far as I am aware there are no publicly available signed off test procedure documents. One would imagine that a very vigorous programme of testing should have taken place, including lengthy environmental testing with test chambers used to simulate the Mars environment. Each test would have its own set of documentation. There are images available showing Curiosity in a test chamber, but no documentation available for scrutiny. There is very little information I could find about the design and testing of the rover vehicles other than the short videos made by NASA. It might be argued that publishing detailed design and test procedures would be giving away secrets. From what I can see, other than the power generation system, the Curiosity rover is using fairly standard technology. Releasing the test documentation would be a good way of proving that the Rover is indeed fit for purpose and capable of doing what they claim. Why is this documentation not available for public scrutiny?

Figure 7 – Opportunity Rover Under Test



The photograph above looks like a staged publicity picture rather than evidence of any real testing being carried out. Most of the testing of the rovers took place on a small piece of land in Pasadena. Pictured overleaf, known as the Mars Yard.

Figure 8 – Official NASA Rover Test Site Aerial View, “Mars Yard”



Figure 9 – Official NASA Rover Test Site, “Mars Yard” with Rover



According to NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, “the rocks in the Mars Yard are several types of basalts, including fine-grained and vesicular, both in red and black. Rock-size distributions are selected to match those seen on Mars. Large rocks are not Mars-like composition, being less dense, but easier to move for testing. In addition to re-arranging rocks, other obstacles such as bricks and trenches are often employed for specialised testing”.

Figure 10 – Official NASA Rover Test Site, “Mars Yard”, Ground View



Looking at this facility with a critical eye, it doesn't look very impressive. There appears to be little or no security in place. The cost to the tax payer of each rover mission is in the order of billions of dollars. The cost therefore of each prototype rover must be many millions of dollars. The site and the buildings seem rather low budget and the location rather unimpressive in what appears to be a back yard.

In my career as an electrical engineer in the UK, I visited various environmental test sites, all of which were far more professional looking and better equipped than this one. I would have expected a reception area to sign people in and out, a security guard, security cameras, administration offices, workshops and offices for engineers to process results.

6. THE CURIOSITY TEAM

A rocket was launched from Cape Canaveral on 26th November 2011, which allegedly contained the Curiosity rover destined for Mars. What evidence exists which proves this craft actually went to Mars? One can watch a video of the Curiosity Team sitting behind black desks allegedly monitoring its progress as it enters the Martian atmosphere, deploys a parachute and lands on the surface. At one point in this operation when the parachute is allegedly deployed, one of the team is heard to say “parachute deployed”, followed by the rest of the team clapping their hands and whooping, then on an overhead computer screen an animated graphic appears of a craft with a cartoon parachute popping out. Why can’t the craft transmit images as it is entering Mars’s atmosphere? What proof do we have that there is a craft deploying a parachute?

Figure 11 - Curiosity Team Monitoring the Descent to Mars



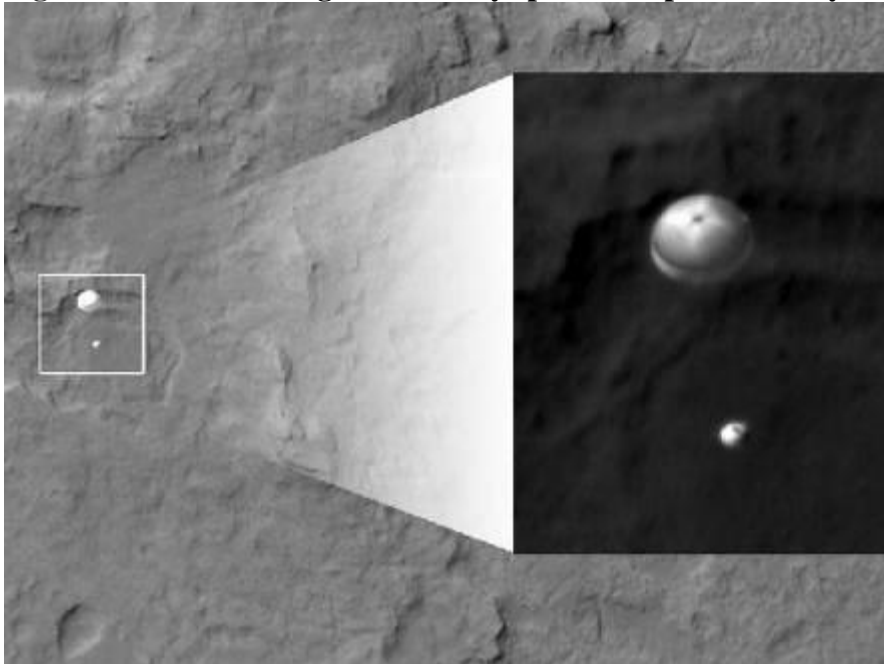
What interests me when we see images like this one, is: Why doesn't the camera film from over the shoulders of the operators, so we can see what they are looking at on the screens. In fact, I would ask why do we need any operators at all considering that light takes a full 3 minutes to travel from the Earth to Mars, which means that any adjustment to the crafts programme would take 6 minutes to be confirmed. This is a very different situation to supposed moon missions where a signal to the moon takes just 1.3 seconds; which would make communication with Apollo craft more spontaneous and perhaps require a room full of operators. With a 6 minute feedback loop, the whole landing programme would have to be almost fully automated, so what are all these people actually doing? It is true that adjustments could be made to the landing programme by sending new data based on data being fed back, but would that require all these operators? – Is this just a show to make the whole thing seem more sophisticated and dramatic than it really is?

Figure 12 – Curiosity Landing Video



A video is available which allegedly shows the entry vehicle travelling down towards the planet. Proponents of this mission would cite this as proof that Curiosity landed on the surface of Mars. I would suggest that it proves nothing. It proves that NASA have released a video which anyone with experience in video effects and editing could produce.

Figure 13 – NASA Image – Curiosity spotted on parachute by Mars obiter



Proof of a landing on Mars?

Following the alleged successful landing of Curiosity on the surface of Mars, NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, hosted a briefing for media which I will make comment on.

Figure 14 – Adam Steltzner at the 2012 Landing Briefing



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVzfDZIEwaU>

The conference itself is not direct evidence for the hypothesis of this paper, but gives an insight into the team which allegedly engineered the Curiosity rover mission. In particular I would draw attention to Adam Steltzner, who it is claimed, lead the team which devised a new way to land Curiosity rover on Mars. In the Q & A session, Steltzner was asked several simple questions and gave answers which suggest he has little technical knowledge of the mission. The event had more of a feel of a Hollywood movie awards ceremony, than a space mission conference, with very little scientific language or engineering discussion about what happened. If somebody claimed the Curiosity team were in fact actors being asked to improvise the entire briefing, without any prior knowledge of the science or engineering of the project, I would not be surprised if it were true. The Team repeatedly referred to the mission as a movie.

Steltzner was asked,

“Tell us about the landing?”

to which he replied,

“I can’t tell you too much about it. I mean, it looks good, I’m being a little flip. In short it looked extremely clean (*laughs*). We had er, we touched down in conditions that were on the more benign side of our nominal expectation. Our erm, by the way I want to preface everything, this is preliminary data scooped with the sieve in the cacophony of the” ... a colleague then helps him out by feeding him a line “control room”, “control room during the celebration, right. And largely by my good friend Miguel San Martin, who is somewhere out there, I hope. At any rate erm, very nominal. Remarkably good our navigation error was on the low side of our expectation ...”

A female journalist then asks Steltzner,

“What type of file type and image compression was used to send these very important thumb nails back from Mars”,

after making a joke about her attractiveness, he replies,

“Unfortunately I absolutely cannot”, *laughter*, “If Justin Mackey is in the room or there’s a couple of other people on the team who’d be able to whip that out quickly, that I, I don’t, couldn’t tell you, sorry”.

He is later asked about the landing location, by an audience member who has looked at the published co-ordinates of the landing site, and compared them with the Geography of that part of Mars, and then deduced that the landing site was within 500 metres of the skirt around a mountain, and possibly within striking distance of the phyllosilicate trench.

He replies that he cannot confirm that, and states,

“My estimate, I’m looking for somebody, There is somebody in the audience here that has that in the tip of their noggin, we should have soon that estimate, but I don’t have it to 5 decimal places. We wouldn’t report it to that ...”

He is asked the time that Curiosity touched down, and also, the time the first image came back. Steltzner replies,

“The first of those is 10:39pm, the second of those I don’t have”.

It seems from this briefing that key members of the team do not have knowledge of basic fundamental details of the mission. Steltzner doesn’t know what file format is used for the Curiosity images, nor when the images came back to the Earth. I would expect such experts to have their heads full of facts and figures about the mission, and know every detail about the control, logistics and feedback of the technology. My feeling is that Steltzner probably believes that the rover landed on Mars, and is what one might describe as a “useful idiot”. His ego and lack of genuine knowledge about what would be required to land a rover on Mars is probably the reason why he was picked to lead the team. There may well be plants within the team, lower down the chain, who know what is really going on, whose job is to keep an eye on the figureheads making sure they believe their mission is real, and rooting out anyone who discovers the truth. Therefore those who speak publicly don’t know what is going on, and those who do know what is going on, don’t speak publicly.

7. PHOTOGRAPHS FROM MARS ROVERS AND LANDERS

We come to some of the most damning evidence which supports the hypothesis, photographs published by NASA allegedly taken by the rovers on the surface of Mars. If the hypothesis is rejected by the reader, then I would ask the reader to suggest plausible explanations for what is seen in these images, and decide if their explanations have a higher likelihood of truth than is stated in the hypothesis. Photographs which are taken by the Curiosity rover are released to a private company called Malin Space Science Systems. NASA spends billions of dollars on these missions, and the fruits of the missions, the photographs are then given to an outside organisation?

What is contained in this document is merely a representative sample of anomalies within the Mars rover images. Some images published by NASA are high definition, others not so, which means when printed in an A4 document format like this one, they may not show the full detail of the image. For this reason I have reduced the definition of the high definition images to around 2100 pixels width, resulting in 300dpi (dots per inch) on a printed page. I have then highlighted the area of the image we are interested in, and shown part of the image in higher definition.

7.1 Wildlife Images

Figure 15 – Curiosity Rover Image PIA16204



Figure 16 – Curiosity Rover Image PIA16204 – Close Up



The image, taken by Curiosity rover appears to show a rodent like creature in between two rocks. The image, like many of the colour Mars images is lacking in colour tone, suggesting it may have had the colour removed, then the whole image given brown/orange tone. This would explain why the rodent creature is the same colour as the rocks. A prototype rover, the K10 was tested on Devon Island. A creature which is native to Devon Island is the arctic Lemming, pictured below.

Figure 17 – A Lemming on Devon Island



This evidence could be suggesting that the Curiosity image was in fact taken on Devon Island, at one of the rover test sites which we will discuss later.

Figure 18 – Curiosity Rover Image 0109MR0684022000E1



Figure 19 – Curiosity Rover Image 0109MR0684022000E1 – Close Up



The image, taken by Curiosity, appears to show the vertebrae of a large animal or sea creature, such as a walrus or an arctic whale.

For comparison I have included an image of a whale skeleton.

Figure 20 – Whale Skeleton



Looking at the central section of the whale's vertebrae in the diagram above, we see a very distinct similarity with the Mars rover image.

Walrus are known to drag themselves on land and huddle up in a group to sunbathe. The early walrus ivory hunters would shoot whole groups of Walruses in one spot, take the tusks and heads and leave the bodies to rot, so there would be backbones without skulls left. These places are known as Walrus graveyards, and have been discovered on Svalbard, where Mars rover research has been carried out

Figure 21 – Curiosity Rover Image 0719MR0030550060402769E01

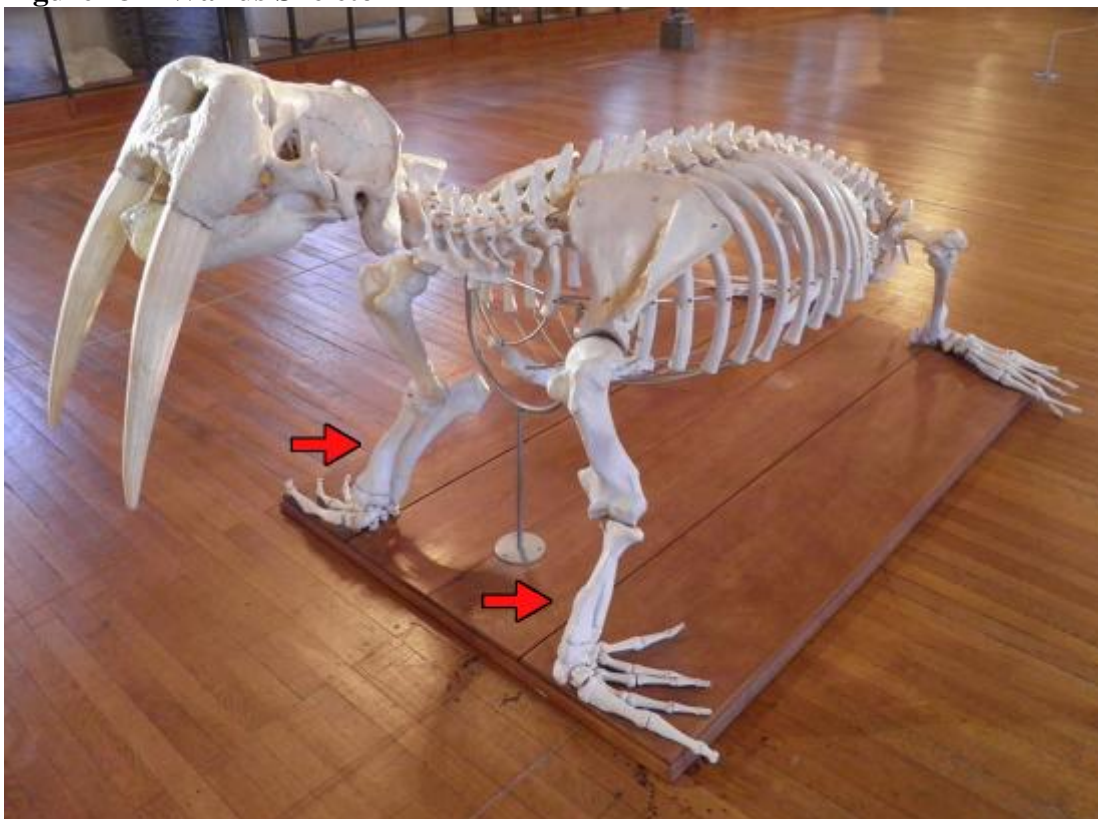


Figure 22 – Curiosity Rover Image 0719MR0030550060402769E01 – Close Up



The image appears to show a bone, resembling the limb of an animal. One possibility is that it is a bone from the arm of a Walrus, pictured below for comparison.

Figure 23 – Walrus Skeleton

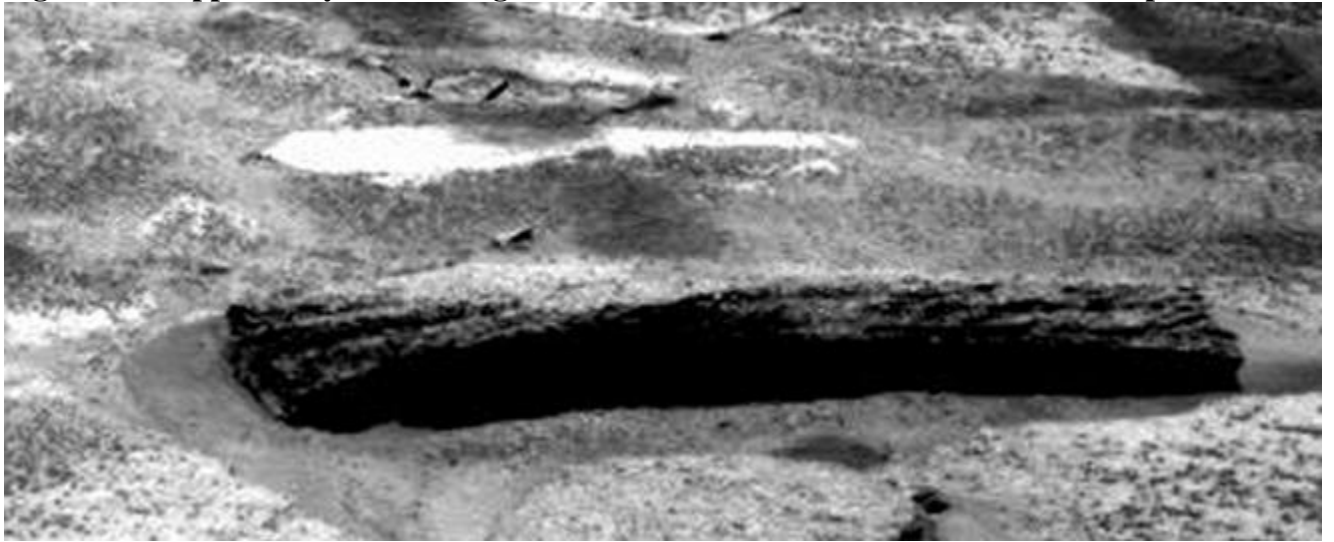


7.2 Plant Life Images

Figure 24 – Opportunity Rover Image 1N138388241EFF2700P1994R0M1



Figure 25 – Opportunity Rover Image 1N138388241EFF2700P1994R0M1 – Close Up



This image appears to show a lump of wood.

Figure 26 – Spirit Rover Image 2M160631572EFFA2K1P2936M2M1

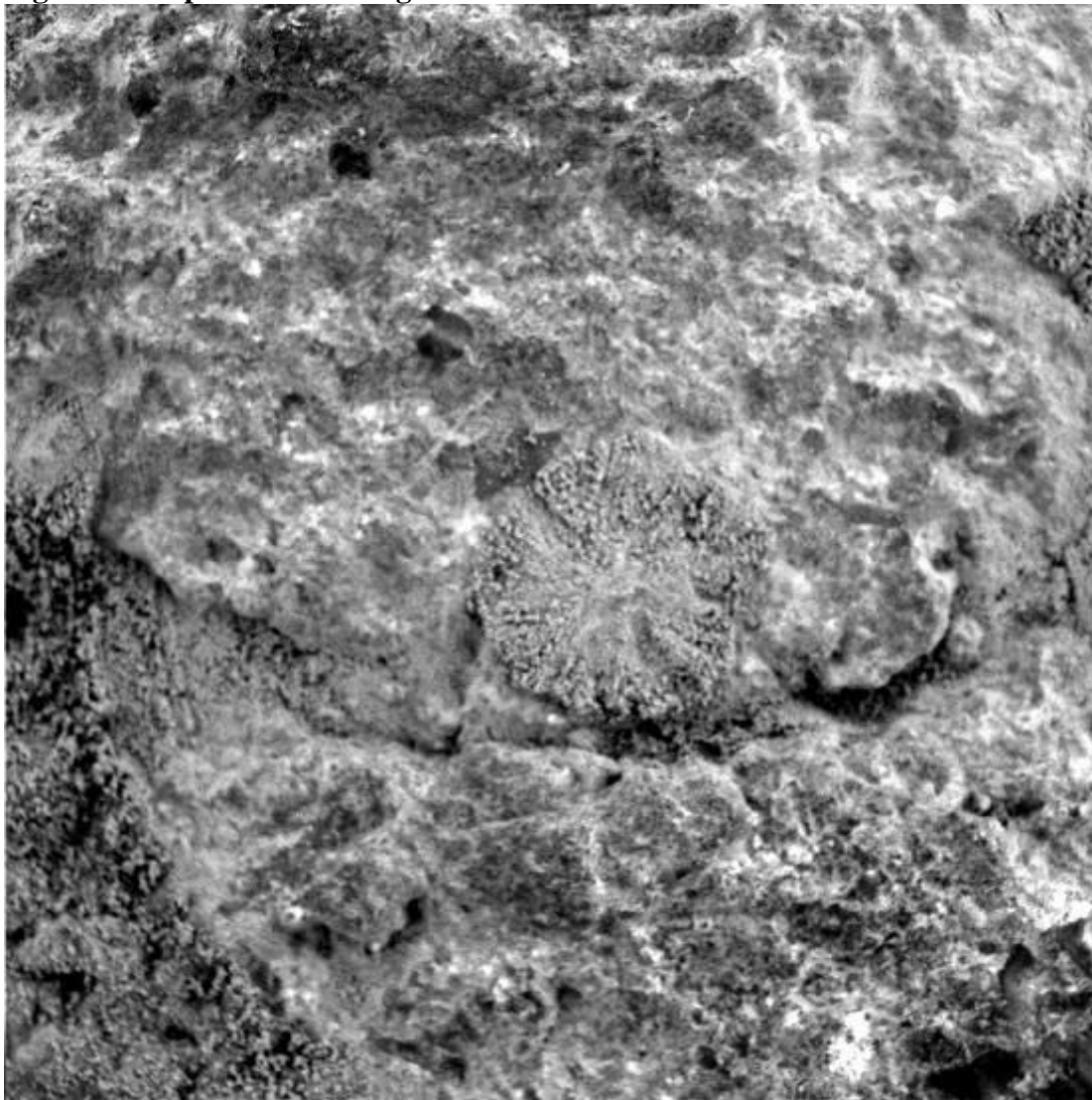
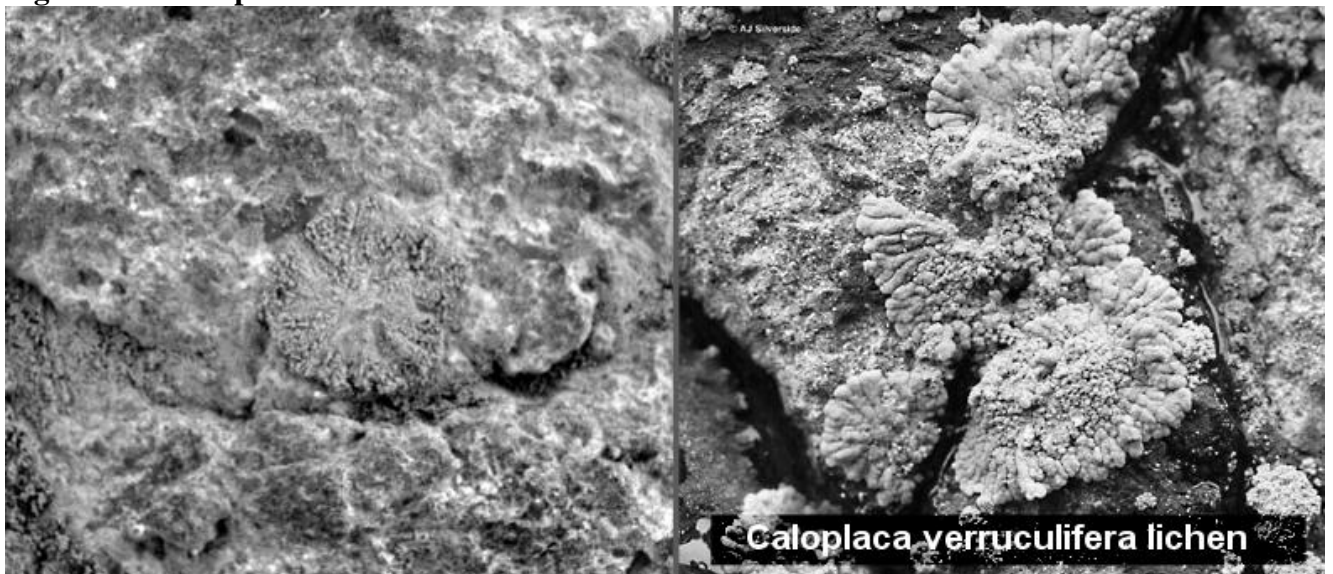


Figure 27 – Comparison of 2M160631572EFFA2K1P2936M2M1 with lichen



The image appears to show lichen. The second image is a comparison between the rover image and lichen found on Earth.

7.3 Fossil Images

Figure 26 – Opportunity Image 1M131201538EFF0500P2933M2M1

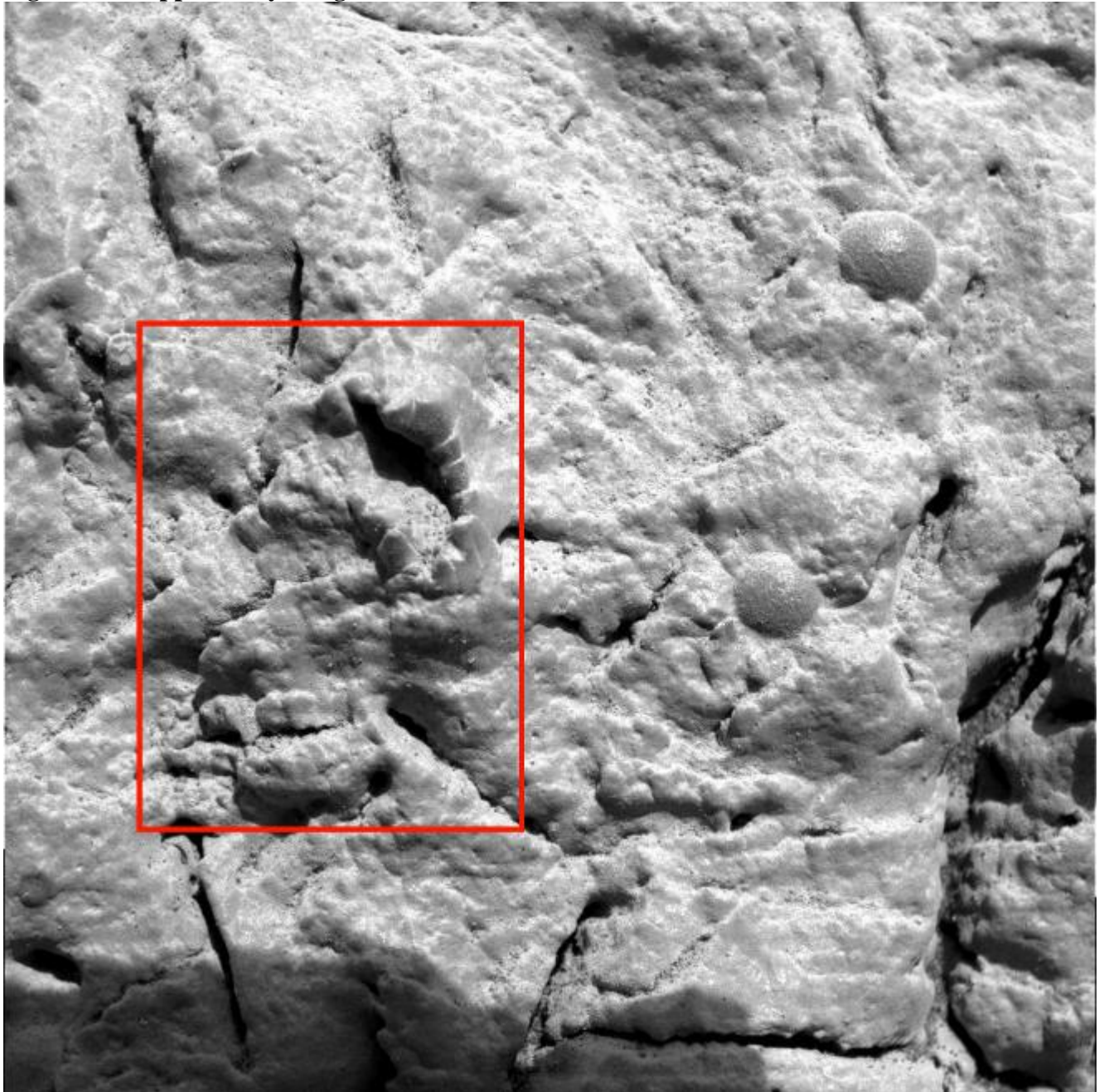
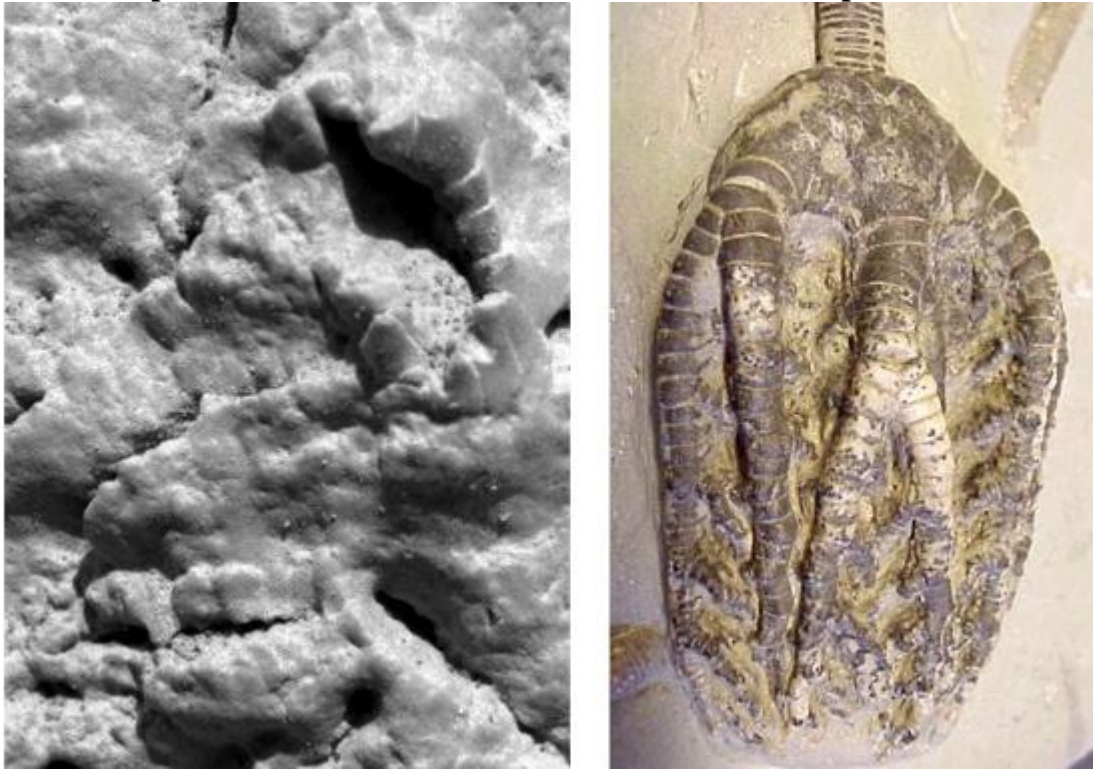


Figure 27 – Comparison of Partial Rover Crinoid Fossil with Complete Crinoid Fossil



We would welcome the independent comments of suitably qualified experts on these fossils.

7.4 Moving Artefacts

Evidence exists in the Mars rover photographs of rocks which appear in one place in one image, and then in a significantly different place or missing in another image. These kinds of displacements cannot be put down to sand storms or environmental processes because the action is far too selective. All other objects remain exactly where they were in previous images. What might be the phenomenon which can cause selective displacement of rocks on a planet with no life? If the rovers were situated on Earth, then the displacements could easily be accounted for by persons moving the rocks from one place to another for whatever reason. They may have been moved accidentally by personnel going about their business, whatever that may be.

Figure 28 – Spirit 2N289093752EFFB074P1985L0M1 & 2N289363474EFFB0A1P1985R0M1

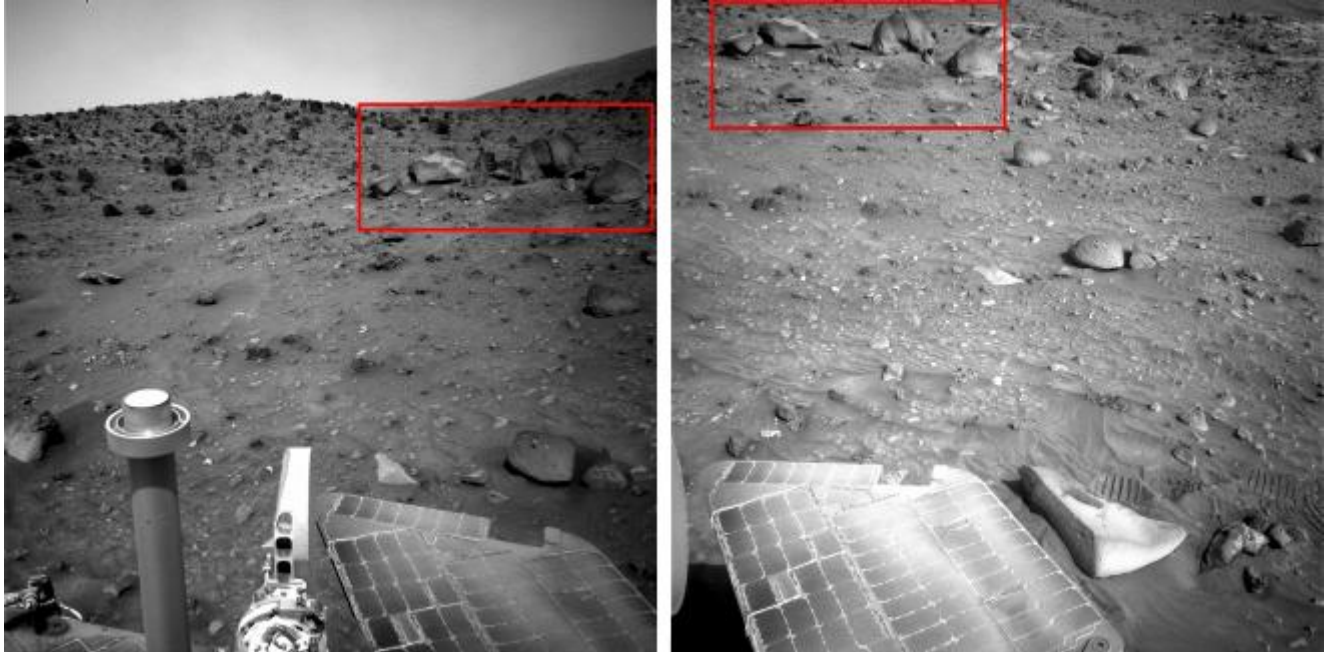


Figure 29 – Spirit Rover, Close up Comparison of Rocks



In this close up we can see clearly that images are of the same group of rocks. However, the two rocks marked by the arrow in the left hand image have disappeared in the right hand image.

7.5 Evidence of NASA Image Tampering

The first question which arises with this next image is how did the rover take a photograph of itself, without us being able to see the arm of the rover which held the camera? According to NASA this image was created by stitching together a set of 55 high-resolution images.

Figure 30 – NASA Image PIA16239, Self Portrait of Curiosity Rover

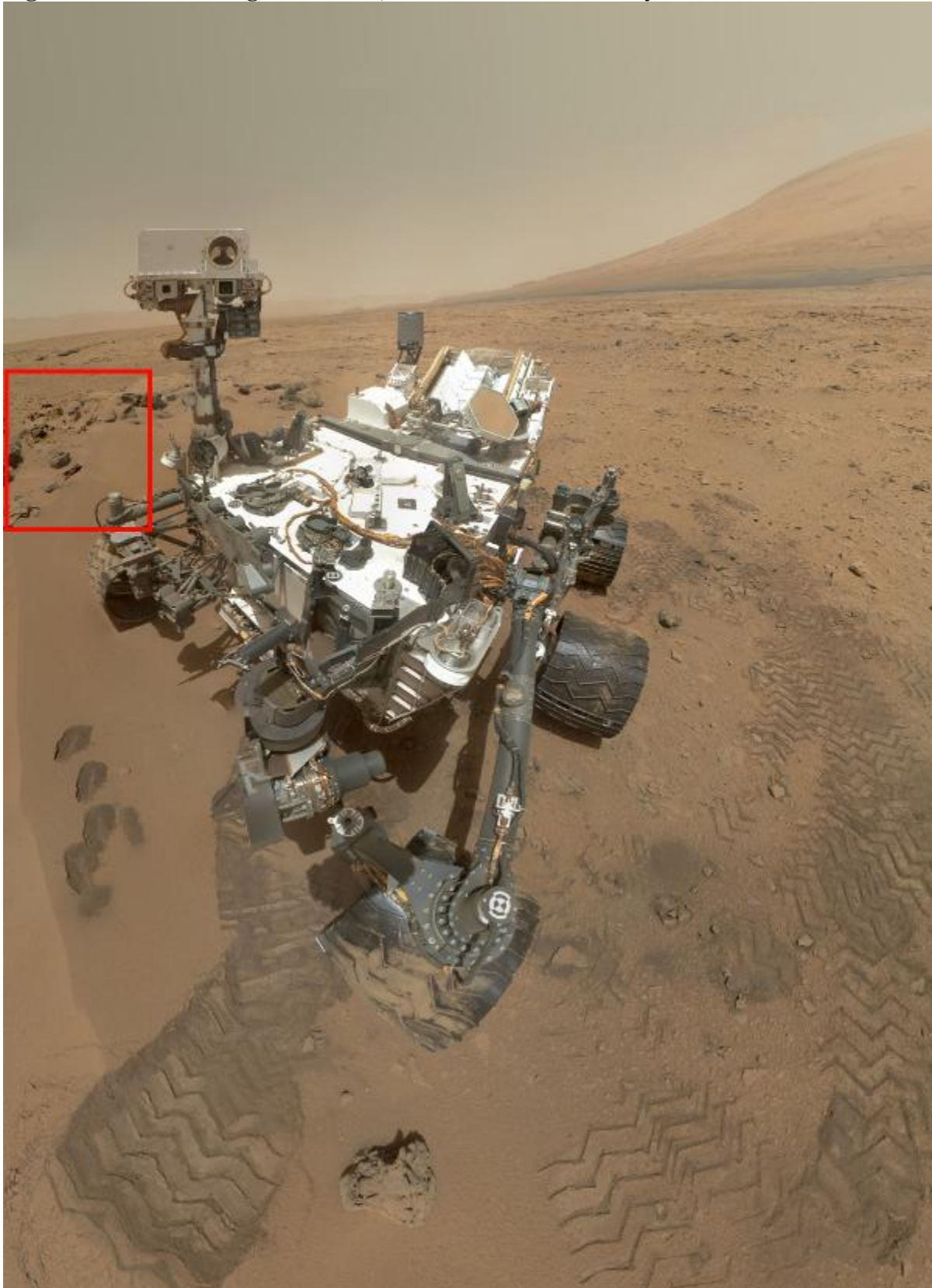
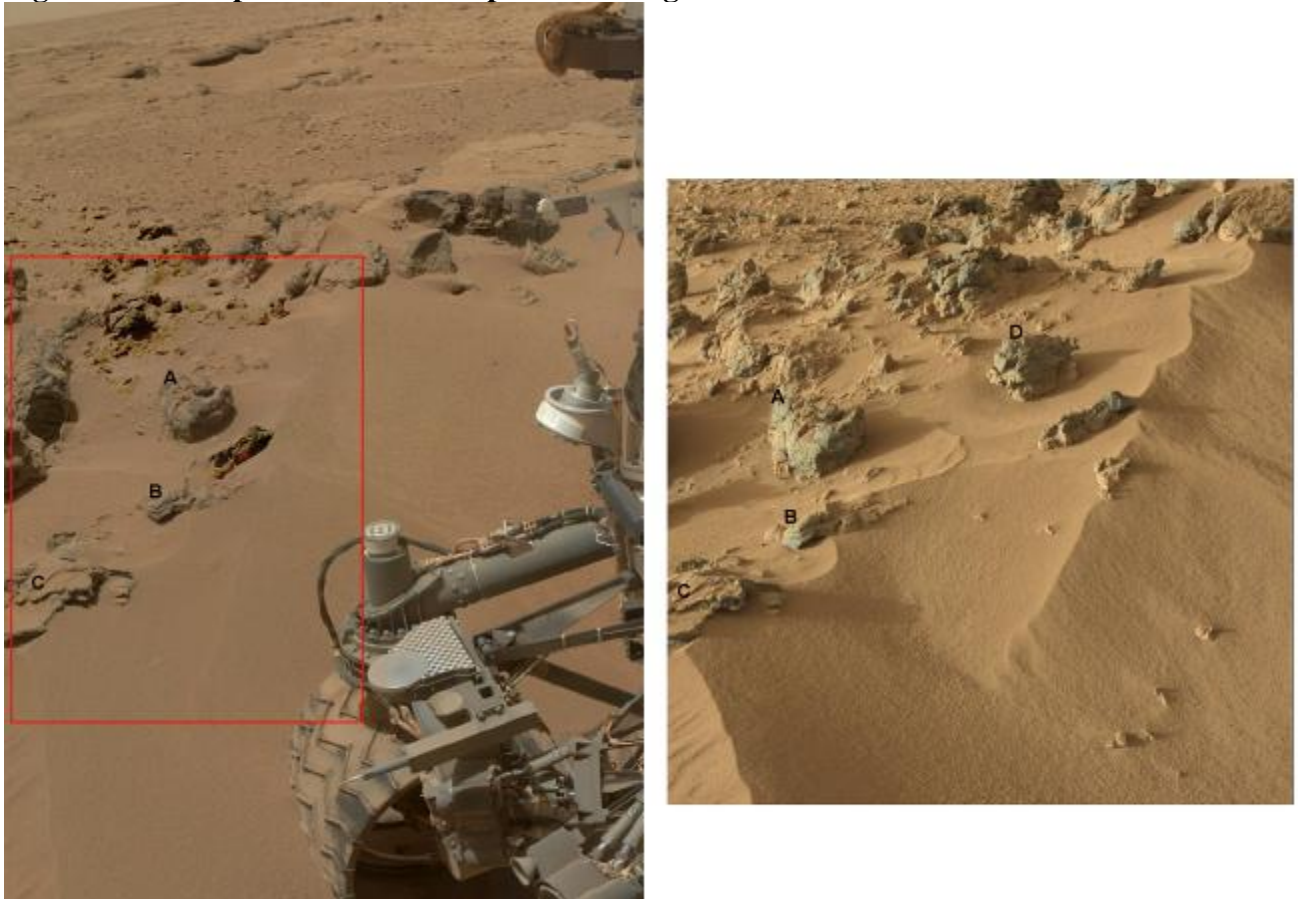


Figure 31 – NASA Image PIA16174



The NASA image above shows two identical photographs, but with different colour tones. The rocks in the picture are a close up of a group of rocks immediately to the left of the rover seen in the red square of the previous self portrait image. The image is taken at a slightly different angle than in the rover image, but some of the same rocks can be clearly identified. Rock, A, B and C are clearly recognisable in both images, but rock D has completely disappeared in the left hand image. This is not the only anomaly in this image. Rocks therefore have either been physically moved or airbrushed.

Figure 32 – Comparison of the two previous images



If NASA's explanation is correct that the self portrait was stitched together using 55 images, then this could explain the reason why the rocks in the two images above do not match. I have left these images in the document as they are still worthy of note.

The next two images illustrate possible use of CGI to create the backgrounds.

Figure 33 – Curiosity Rover Image 4EDR_F0042956NCAM00107M



Figure 34 – Curiosity Rover Image NRA_400071695EDR_F0040000NCAM00419M

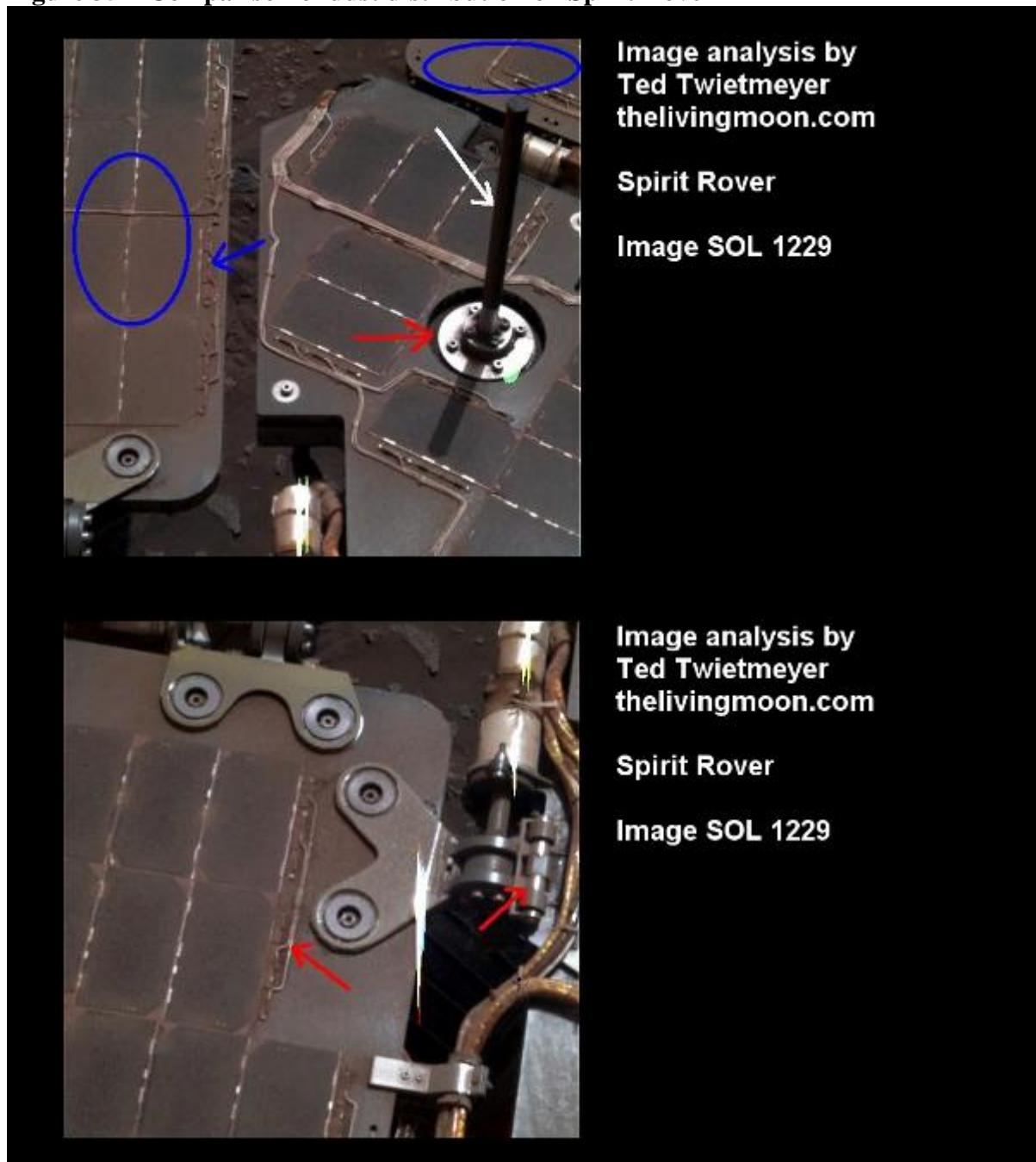


7.6 Impossible Cleaning

In 2007 Ted Twietmeyer examined images from the Spirit Rover and pointed out that the accumulation of dust on the rover was highly selective. NASA reported that problems had been encountered because the solar panels were no longer providing enough energy to charge the batteries. This, it was claimed was due to dust accumulating on the solar panels. Amazingly, the rover managed to recover itself because dust was blown off the solar panels by Mars “dust devils”. This seems highly unlikely in an atmosphere which is 200 times less dense than the earth.

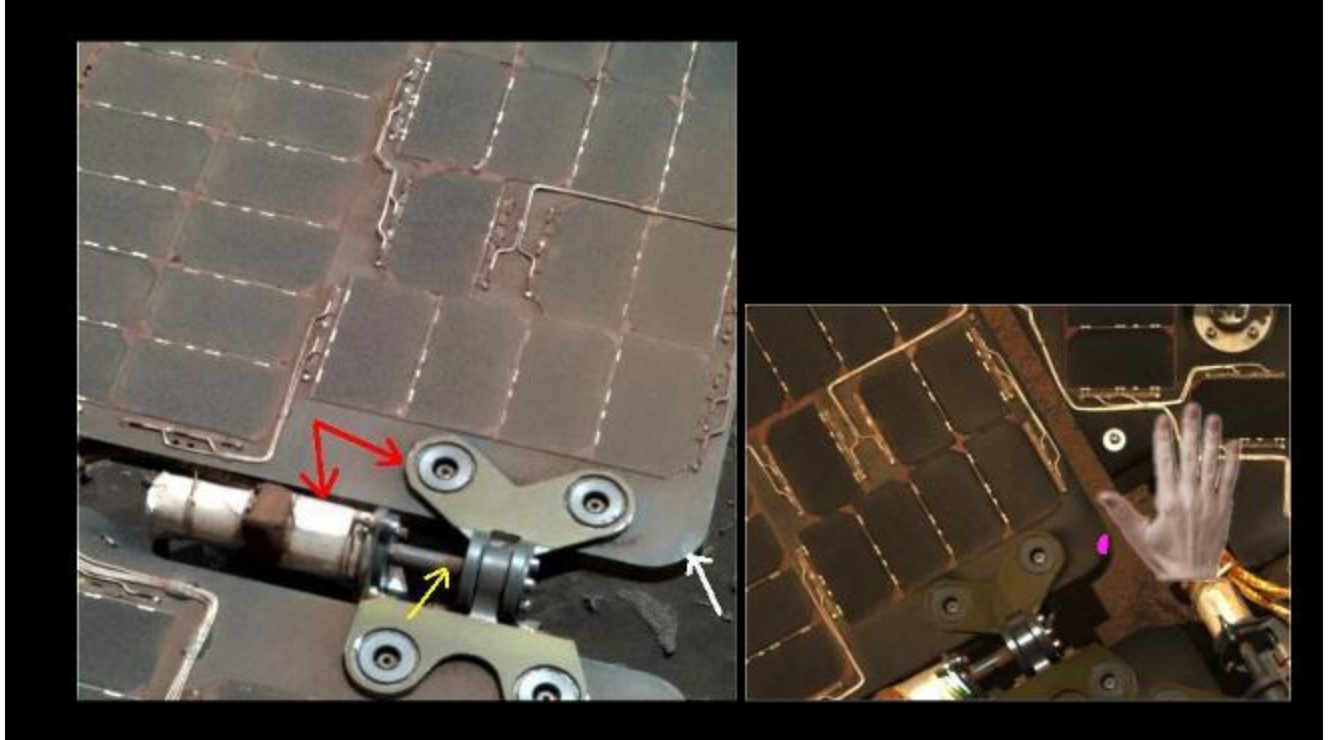
I have cut and pasted some images from Ted Twietmeyers website which show that the dust on the Spirit Rover is not uniformly distributed, indicating that certain parts such as the hinges and mounting plates may have been handled from time to time, causing them to be much cleaner than the solar panels.

Figure 35 – Comparison of dust distribution on Spirit Rover



In the image below, the hinge marked with a yellow arrow does not have a consistent amount of dust on it. It appears to have been disturbed. How could this have happened? The image also appears to show a finger or thumb print in the dust on the corner of the solar panel mounting plate marked with a white arrow. In order to check if this finger or thumb print is the correct size, I have produced an image (below right), showing the size of a human hand in relation to the solar panel and compared it to the “print” marked in pink. I conclude that the clean area indicated by the white arrow is the correct size for a thumb print.

Figure 36 – Possible thumb print on Spirit Rover solar panel



7.7 Colours

There is strong evidence that NASA images, from the lander and rover missions have had the colours modified. Much debate exists over the colour of the Martian sky. Huge controversy surrounds the first images sent back from Viking 1. The image below is alleged to be the first image sent back from the surface, which is no longer available on the NASA website. It shows a light blue sky and a slightly reddish surface. The image was at some pointed changed by NASA and replaced with the image shown underneath (revised),

Figure 37 – Viking 1 Image PIA00563 (original)



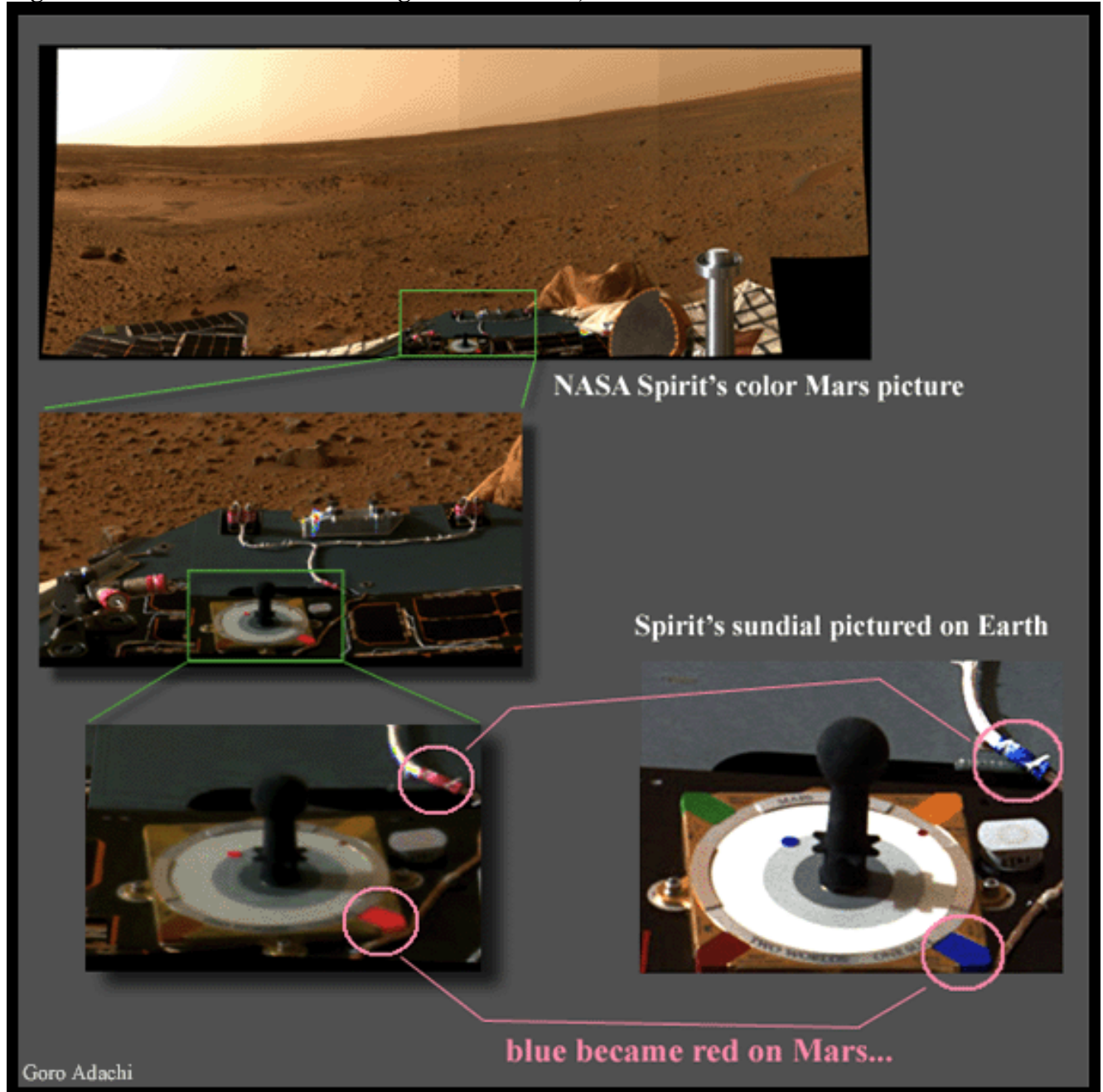
Figure 38 – Viking 1 Image PIA00563 (revised)



NASA's explanation for the first image change was "suspended dust in the atmosphere". It is believed by some researchers such as Richard Hoagland, Anthony Beckett, Holger Isenberg and Gilbert Levin that the real colours of Mars are more like the original PIA00563 image, with a blue sky, and that NASA are tampering with the colours on most of their images to produce the colour seen in the second, revised, PIA00563 image.

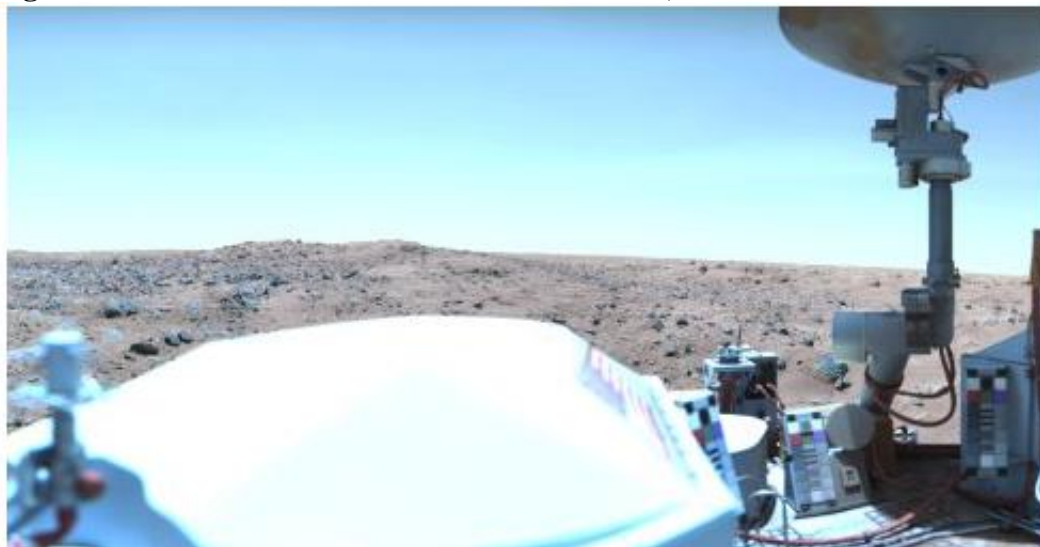
The following image from the Spirit rover shows the colour calibration target in the same view as the surface and sky, and is conclusive proof that the image was not calibrated properly.

Figure 39 – Screenshot from www.goroadachi.com, The Hidden Colours of Mars



If we assume this is standard practice, then it means all images are having their colours modified before they are published.

Figure 40 – Screenshots from www.mars-news.de, The Colours of Mars



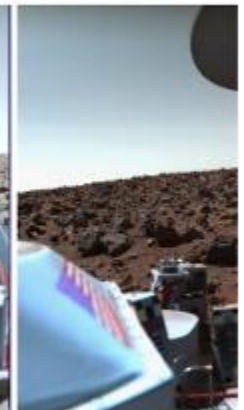
Pic. A, Viking 1, Nr. 12b069, 29. August 1976, 12.65 locale Mars time
 This picture was created with color-correction derived from the [filter response data](#). (click on picture to view it in original size)
 All Viking and Pathfinder images courtesy of JPL/NASA/Caltech.



original data
 without correction



Pic. B, Viking 2, Nr. 22a158, 25. September 1976, 11.96 locale Mars time
 This picture was created with color-correction derived from the [filter response data](#).



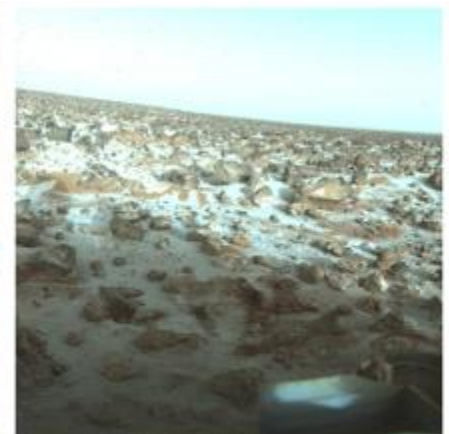
original data without
 correction



Pic. C, Viking 1, 12h016,
 11 February 1978, 15.56



Pic. D
 Blue amplified by 50%, green around 25%



Pic. E, Viking 2, 21i093,
 18.May 1979, 14.24

Figure 41 – Screenshots from www.mars-news.de, The Colours of Mars



Pic. F, Pathfinder,
August 1997, source: [6]



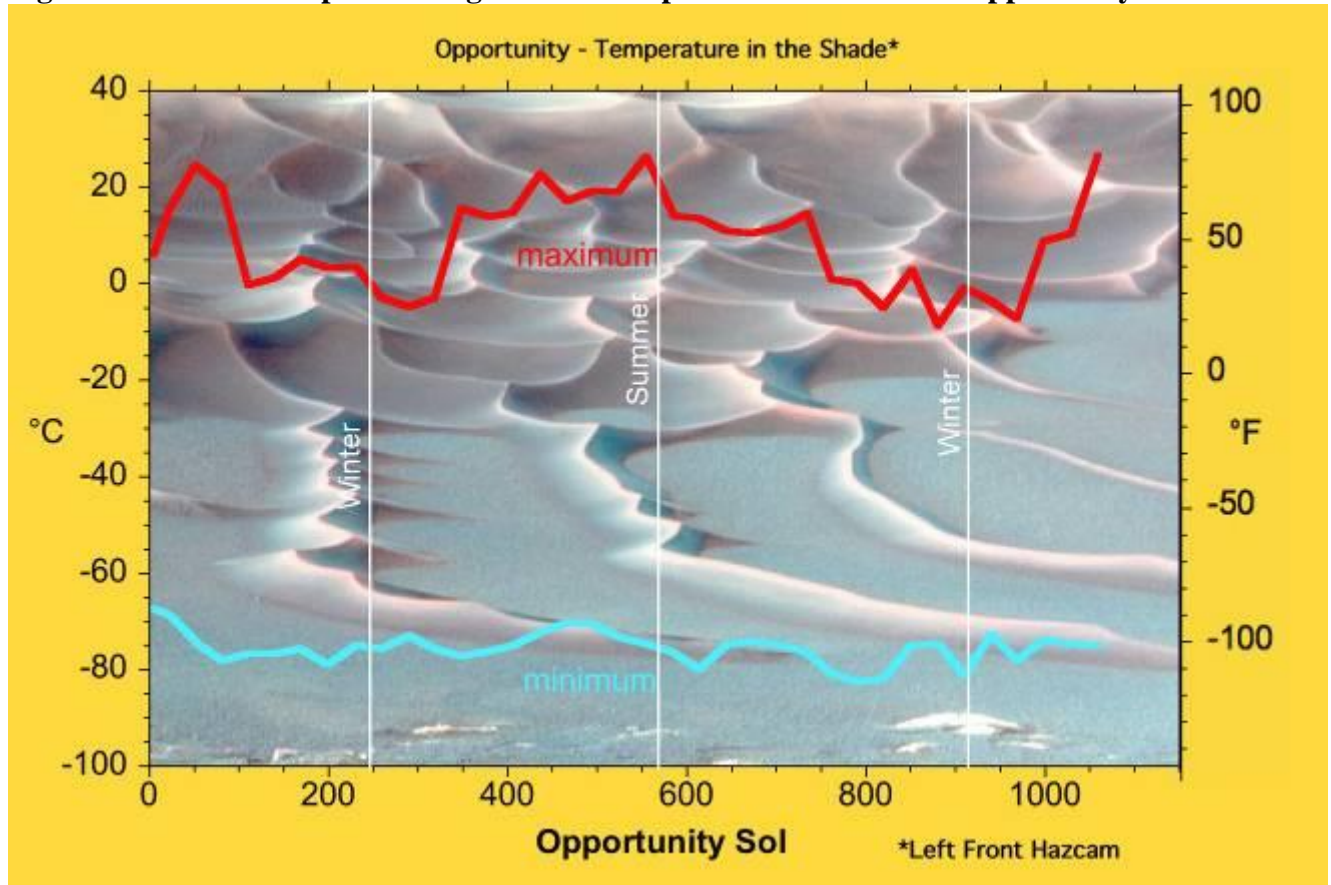
Pic. G,
Blue amplified by approx. 50%,
green by approx. 25%

Some of the researchers who point out the colour alterations made by NASA put forward the argument that the reason NASA is modifying the colours, must be to conceal something about Mars. In other words they do not dispute the images were taken on Mars. They assume that NASA must not want the public to know that Mars has a blue sky. Would a more likely explanation not be that the images were all taken on Earth and NASA are modifying the colours to make them appear less like the Earth?

7.8 Impossible Weather

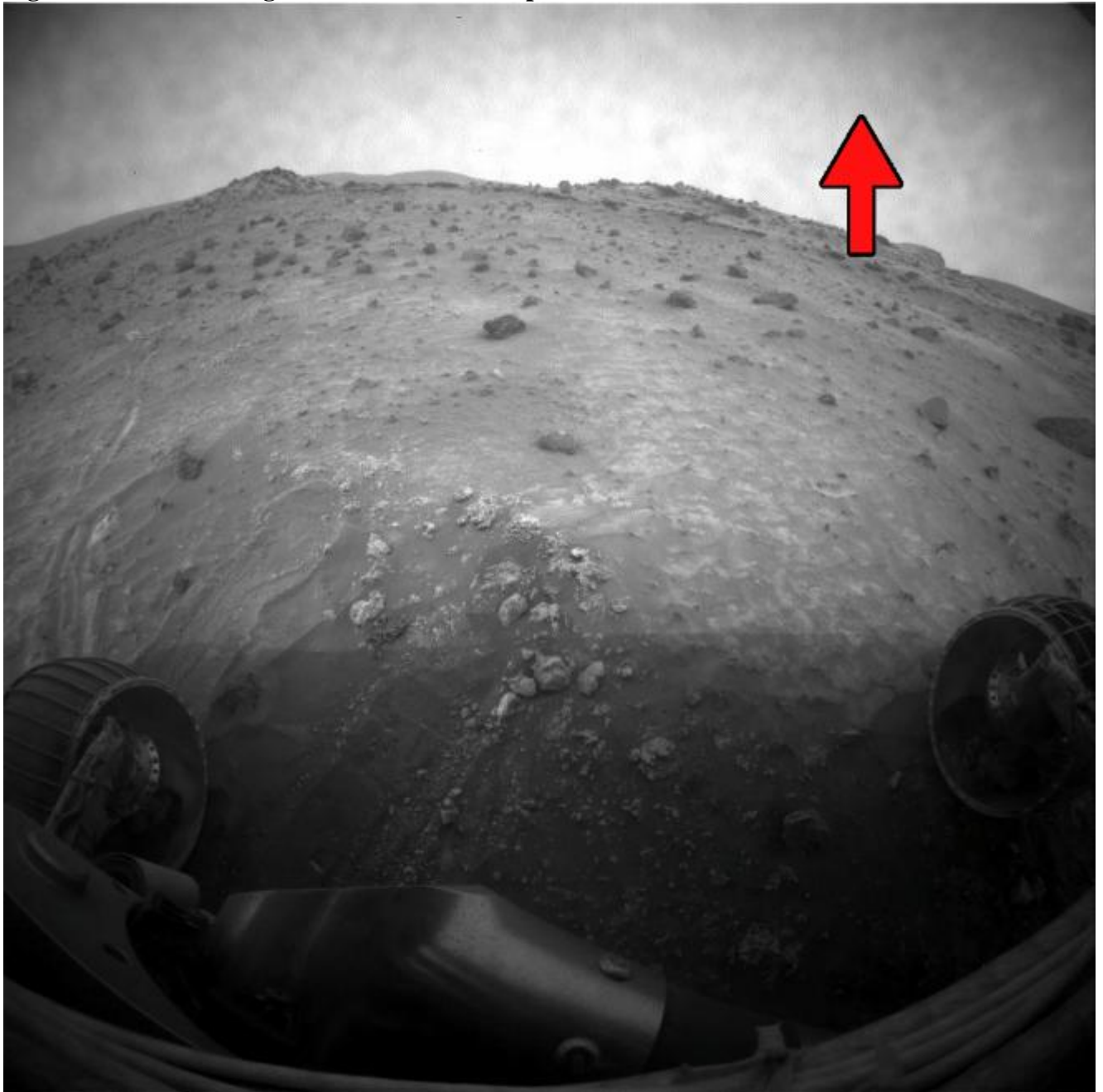
The temperature on Mars is variable as on Earth depending on the time of year, whether it is day or night and whether you are at the poles or the equator. Official figures estimate the temperature ranges from 20 degrees centigrade to -153 degrees centigrade.

Figure 42 – NASA Graph Showing Annual Temperature Variation at Opportunity Location



The atmosphere on Mars is composed primarily of Carbon Dioxide (95.3%), and is 100 times less dense than Earth's atmosphere. The atmospheric pressure is much lower than on Earth, 600 Pascals, compared to 101,300 Pascals on Earth. Current scientific thinking states that there is no liquid water on Mars, and it can only exist as vapour or ice due to the atmospheric conditions. This means the surface is dry and therefore there should be no flow of water, mud or soil.

Figure 43 – NASA Image 2f237337944effaucmp1214l0m1



This image shows moisture on the optics of the camera which is creating a smudging effect on the image of the sky. This phenomenon is not seen in most other images, suggesting that the dampness was either temporary or removed somehow. Several days after this image showing moisture was taken, the next image was taken which could be evidence of the effects of moisture in the soil.

Figure 44 – NASA Image 2f238926104effaucmp1159l0m1



In this image we see what appears to be mud, which over a period of a few days is seen to flow or move in the direction of the arrow. This is best seen by animating a series of 20 NASA images in sequence from 2F237337944 to 2F240260511. The moisture and mud flow are both evidence of rain. It is claimed by scientists that presently there is no rain on Mars.

Figure 45 – NASA Image 1f138744391eff2809p1214r0m1

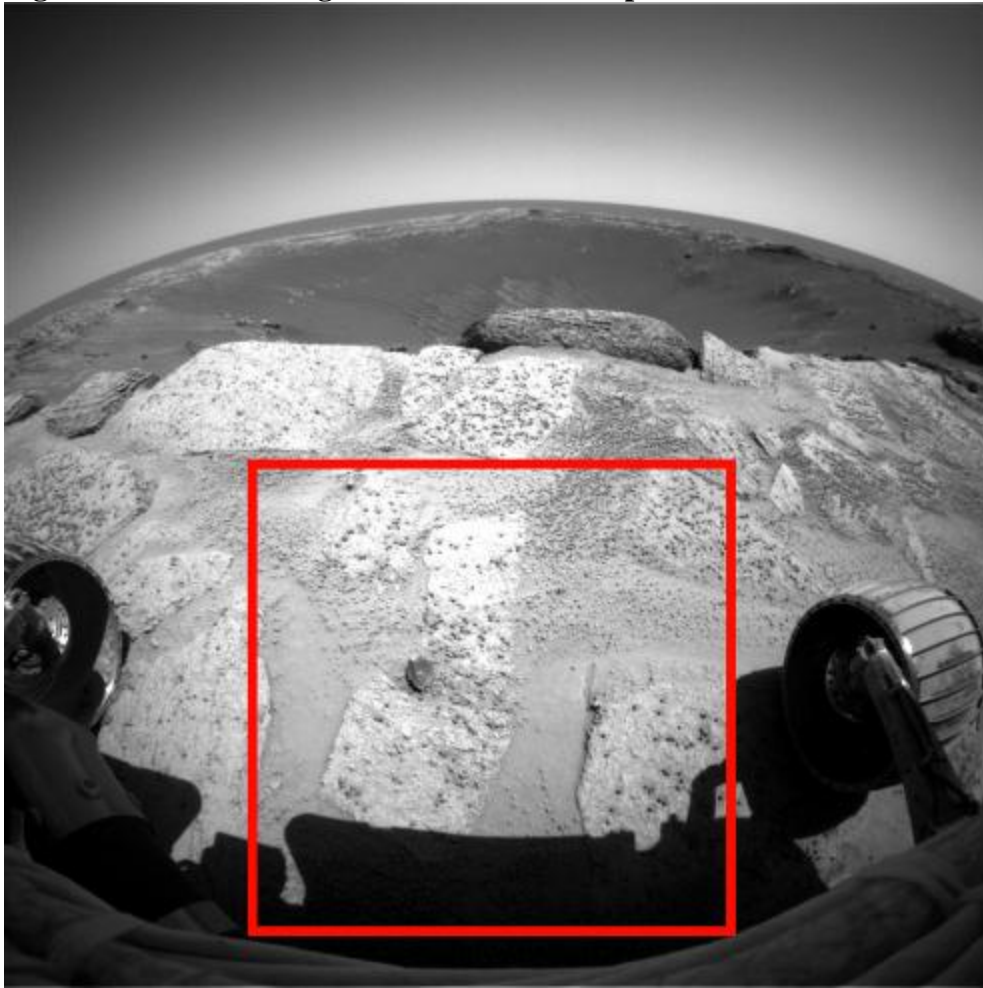
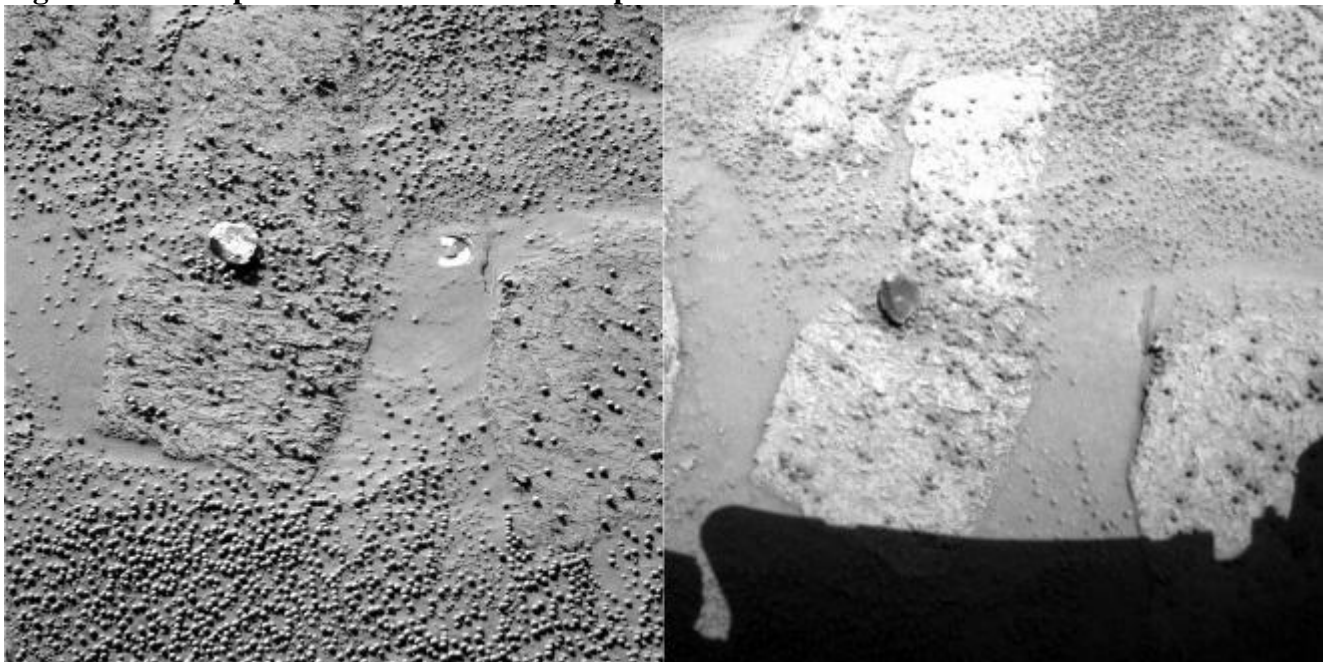


Figure 46 – Comparison 1f138744391eff2809p1214r0m1 & 1P139113540EFF2811P2535L7M1



The left hand image shows a close up view of a portion of the ground, the right hand image shows the same portion of the ground taken at a different time which has been zoomed in from the previous image. Does the comparison show flow of mud or water?

8. EVIDENCE OF FAKED PHOTOGRAPHY OF PREVIOUS NASA MISSIONS

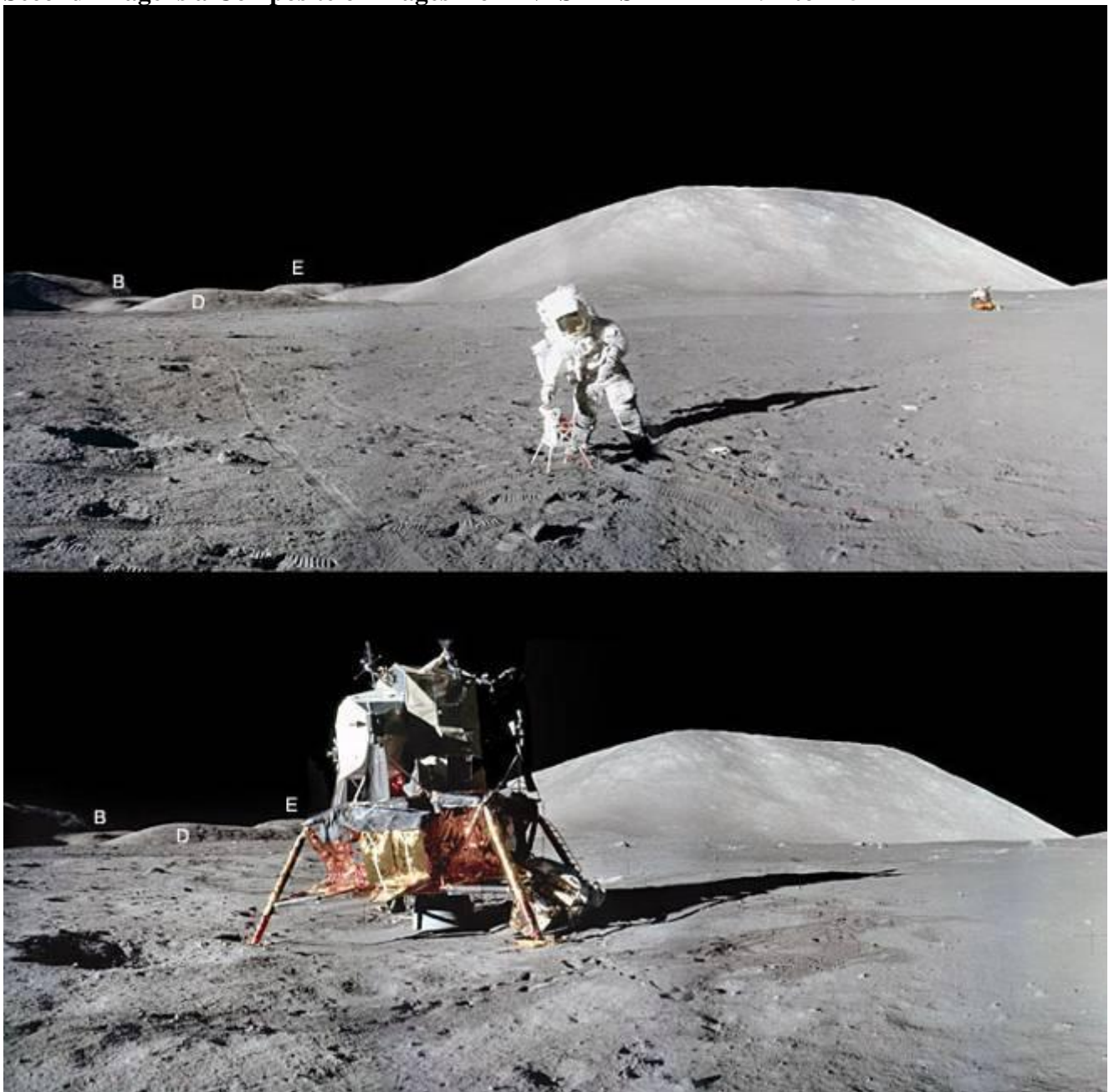
Much has been written about the moon landings and it is widely contended, although not accepted by governments and scientific institutions, that most if not all images publicised by NASA appearing to be taken from the surface of the moon, were in fact taken on Earth in studios. This is a huge subject, and I will include just a few compelling examples which strongly suggest that the images could not have been taken on the moon.

What you see below are photographs from the Apollo 17 mission. The two images have each been constructed by stitching 4 NASA images together. In the first image we see an astronaut and in the background on the right hand side of the image is the LEM, the lunar excursion module. Once the LEM has landed on the surface, it then has no means of moving on the surface of the Moon, it stays at a fixed location.

Figure 47

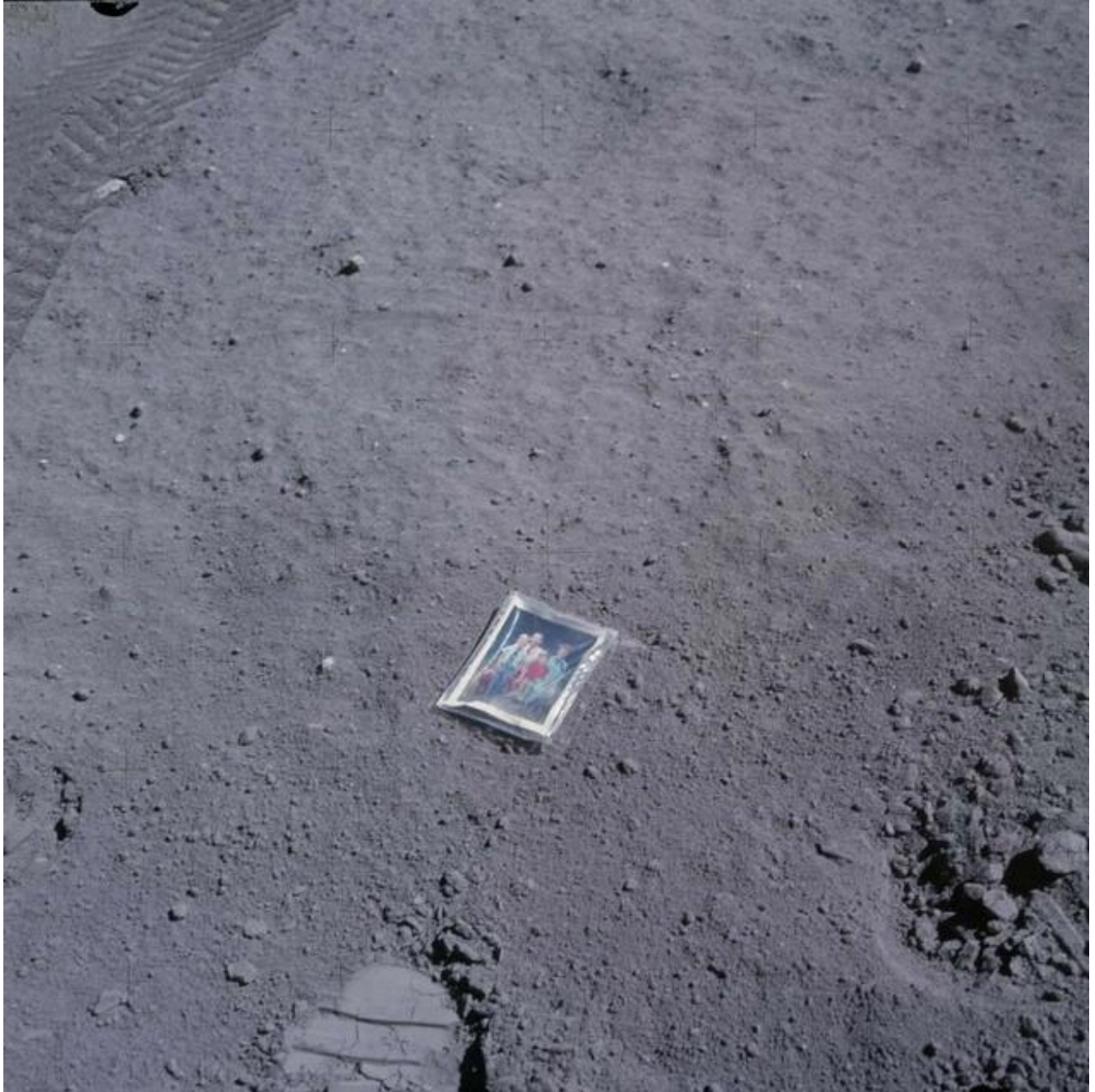
First Image is a Composite of images from NASA AS17-134-20437 to 20443

Second Image is a Composite of images from NASA AS17-147-22494 to 22521



When the astronauts leave the moon, they board the top part of the LEM, which then ejects from the lower part leaving it behind on the surface. Therefore it is only possible for the LEM to appear in one position on the surface of the Moon. In the second image we see the LEM in the foreground, but the background is identical to the first composite. It is physically impossible for the LEM to move whilst on the surface of the moon. This suggests the images were taken on a stage set, and the background is being generated using a front projection system, which was widely used by filmmakers at that time.

Figure 48 – NASA Image AS16-117-18841



This image is a photograph of a family photograph resting on the surface of the Moon allegedly placed there by Apollo 16 astronaut Charlie Duke. We can see that the image is well lit indicating the sun was shining when the image was taken. The surface temperature of the moon is over 100 degrees centigrade during the day. A photograph consisting of various layers of 1970's photographic paper would immediately curl up if placed on the surface of the moon. This suggests the image is not an image of the surface of the moon, and has been taken somewhere much cooler.

Figure 49 – NASA Image AS15-88-11901HR

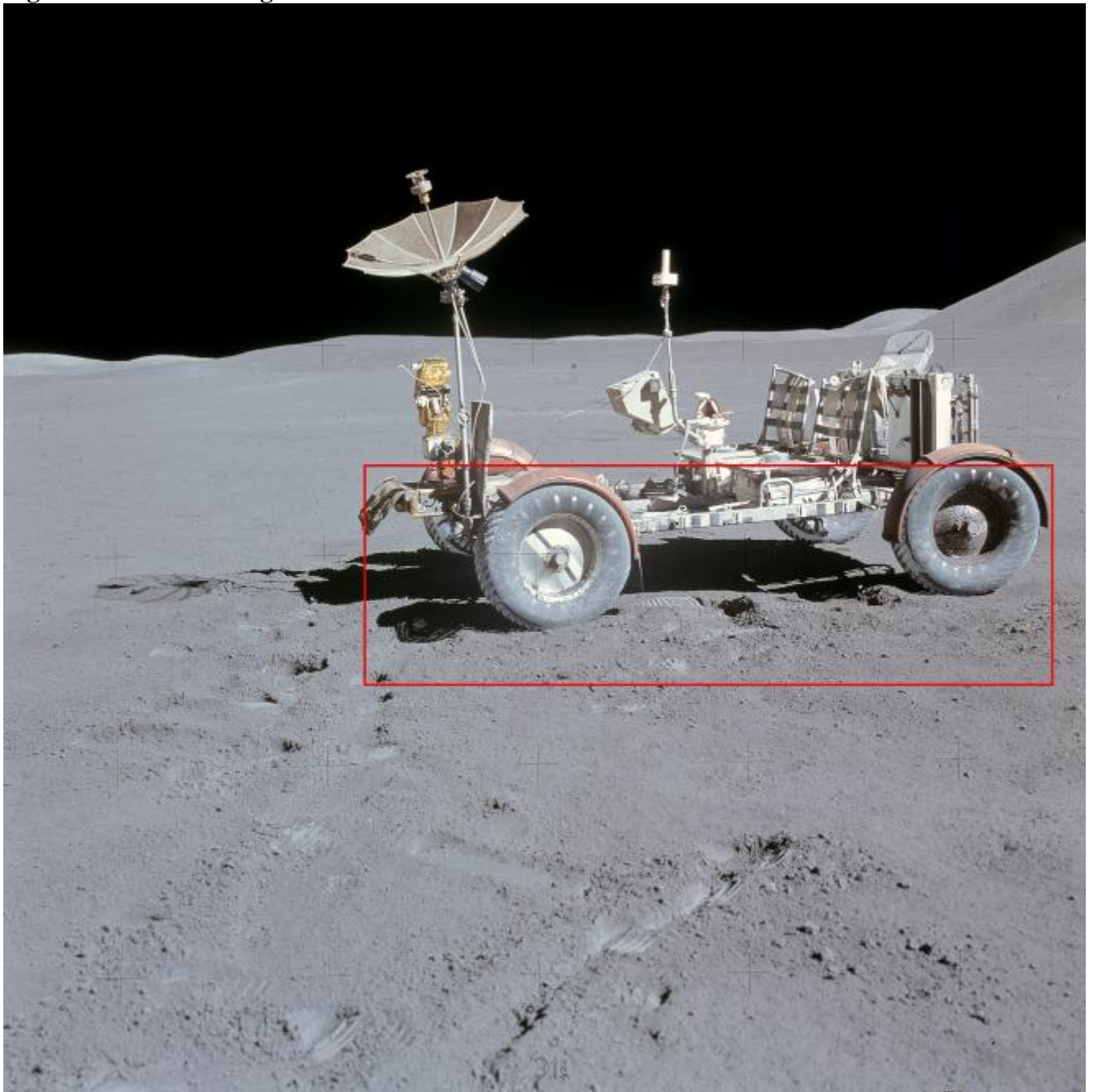


Figure 50 – NASA Image AS15-88-11901HR – Close Up



The image above is from a lunar rover vehicle. Looking closely at the soil around the tyres, there are no tyre tracks from the wheels which have a deep tyre tread. This suggests the vehicle has not actually driven to the spot where it is located. How could this possibly be the case if the rover was driven there from the lunar lander? There are many more examples of moon images which have been proven not to have been taken on the Moon, such as discrepancies in the lengths of shadows, rocks which have studio set lettering on them and evidence of the use of front projection backgrounds within studio sets. It is widely believed by many that Stanley Kubrick was heavily involved in creating studio sets on Earth to be used for creating Moon images put out by NASA. Assuming this is true, is it surprising that NASA, the same organisation responsible for the Mars landing missions, might have continued to use similar techniques to create images on Earth for space missions from the late seventies onwards, including Mars landers and rovers?

9. EARTH BASED FIELD TESTING SITES

Within Mars exploration research, the term “Mars analog” is often used and is defined as : Mars analogs are defined as locations on Earth where some environmental conditions, geologic features, biological attributes or combinations thereof may approximate in some specific way those thought to be encountered on Mars, either at present or earlier in that planet’s history. Studying such sites leads to new insights into the nature and evolution of Mars, the Earth and life.

The quest to find suitable “mas analogs” has resulted in a number of Mars testing and research sites being located at remote parts of the globe.

9.1 Devon Island Test Site

Figure 51 – Map Showing Location of Devon Island

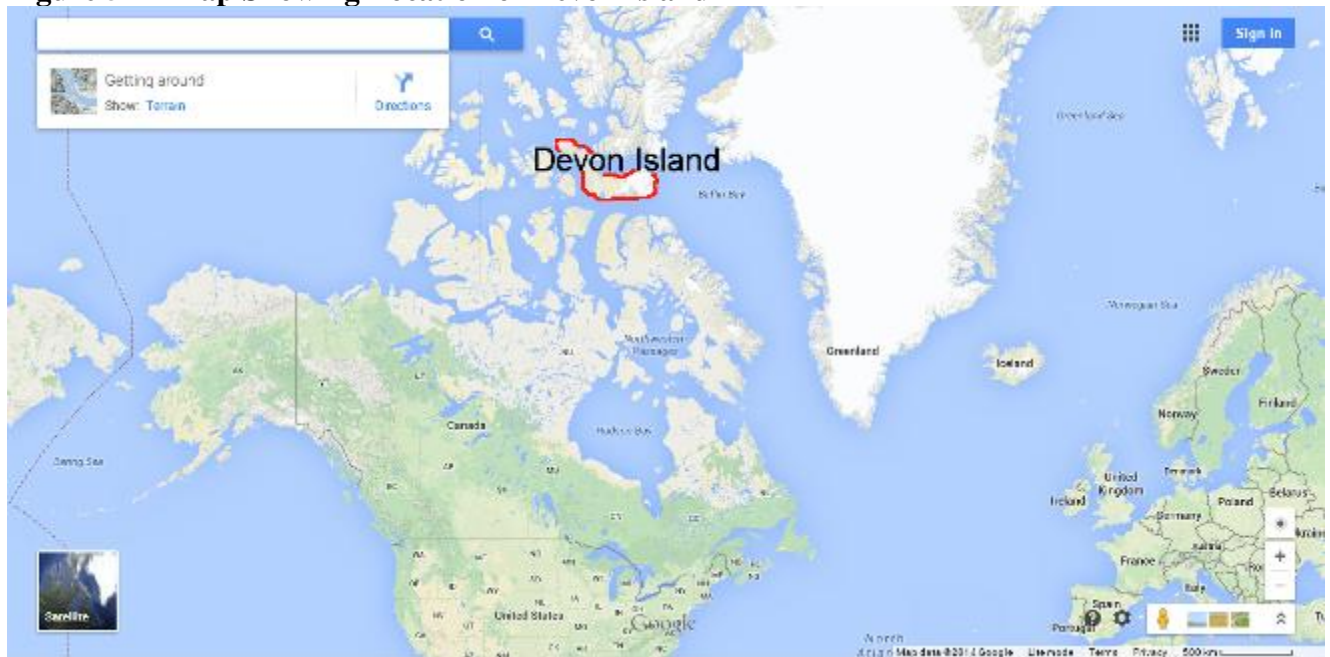


Figure 52 – Flashline Mars Arctic Research Station (FMARS)



The Flashline Mars Arctic research Station (FMARS), is a simulated landed spacecraft and research station, built and operated by the Mars Society. The Mars Society holds competitions for scientists who compete for the prize of living inside this tin can for months at a time. The station is close to an ancient 23km wide impact crater.

Figure 53 – The Houghton Crater on Devon Island



NASA's Houghton Mars Project (HMP) is part of an international interdisciplinary field research facility located on the world's largest uninhabited island, Devon Island. This project uses the polar desert setting and harsh climate of the Canadian High Arctic to mimic the environmental conditions that crewmembers are likely to encounter on Mars and other planets.

Devon Island's barren terrain, freezing temperatures, isolation, and remoteness offer NASA scientists and personnel a number of unique research opportunities. Other factors, such as the Arctic day and night cycle and restricted logistics and communications capabilities, offer fitting analogs for the challenges that crewmembers will likely face on long-duration space flights.

In addition to ongoing studies that focus on variables such as communications, equipment testing, and vehicular and extra-vehicular operations, Devon Island is also the site of the Exploration program, which aims to develop new technologies, strategies, and operational protocols geared to support the future exploration of the Moon, Mars, and other planets.

The site overlooks the 23km wide Houghton Impact Crater site.

9.2 Hanksville Utah Test Site

Figure 54 – Map Showing Location of Mars Desert Research Station, Utah



Figure 55 - Mars Desert Research Station, Utah



This site, like the Devon Island site is owned and run by the Mars Society.

9.3 Spitsbergen Test Site

Figure 56 – Map Showing Location of Spitsbergen



Another area used for research and testing is Spitsbergen. There is no permanent base and various sites are used on the island on a part time basis. Mars rover components have been tested here, run by Vestfonna Geophysical AS and funded by the Norwegian Space Centre, ESA and NASA. Known as AMASE, Arctic Mars Analog Svalbard Expedition, the site is not under the remit of the Mars Society, which I will discuss briefly later.

Payload instruments CheMin and SAM onboard NASA's Curiosity rover were deployed here between in 2006 and 2011. Also field deployment of payload instruments onboard ESA's ExoMars rover has been ongoing since 2007.

Only operational in the Arctic summer, in August each year a group of around 20 scientists and engineers travel there to carry out various activities related to space research. Each year the team has different objectives, such as testing components to be used on the Mars rovers or testing space suits.

Figure 57 – Longyearbyen



The largest town in Spitsbergen is Longyearbyen, with a population of just 2,040.

Figure 58 – AMASE 2008 Field Sites



The most striking thing about the three Mars analog test sites described here is just how similar the landscapes are to the images captured by the Mars rovers. There are two ways one might interpret this undeniable fact. Firstly that the locations were chosen because their landscapes are similar to Mars, or secondly that the rover images are not being taken on Mars and are in fact being taken at the Mars test sites. If our hypothesis is true, it seems likely that the locations used for creating the Mars rover images would be at Mars analog sites. Another fact we need to consider is the remoteness of the locations of these sites. Most of the sites, especially Devon Island and Spitsbergen would be difficult if not impossible to get to by members of the public. Does this provide the isolation required to carry off this hoax?

10. THE MARS SOCIETY

I have mentioned “The Mars Society” in previous sections, who operate and maintain some of the remote analog testing sites. It is a not for profit organisation, and is funded “fully by American Organisations”, this presumably includes NASA. It is responsible for building and maintaining the Mars analog stations, and ostensibly playing a significant role in the research for Mars exploration missions. Questions which arise out of this are as follows: Why does NASA need to prop up a seemingly separate organisation? Why does NASA not conduct the research that the Mars Society is involved with itself? Why does NASA not start its own analog research wing? Why does this research need to appear to be independent? The Mars Society was founded by Dr Robert Zubrin in 1998, and officially has no owner. The organisation is not a charity nor is it a business, yet it manages to fund very expensive projects in very remote parts of the world costing millions of dollars. Somebody must be giving it huge amounts of money. I would contend that it is possible this organisation is an intelligence agency front. The funding, one would have thought must be coming from government somehow. Creating front organisations such as The Mars Society, would give those running the deception a degree of plausible deniability. It disconnects the government, or the secret part of the government, from the cover up.

Figure 59 – Dr Robert Zubrin, Founder of the Mars Society



The spokesman and founder of the Mars Society, Dr Robert Zubrin speaks and writes about how manned missions to Mars might be achieved using rocket based propulsion. Zubrin seems to have considered all of the problems associated with transporting human beings to Mars, landing them, then housing them, then at some point returning them to Earth in an REV (Return to Earth Vehicle). He talks about landing “habs”, habitation units, on the surface of Mars where humans can live, and make fuel out of Mars’s atmosphere once they are there. His explanations of how manned Mars missions could be achieved are detailed, with all of the various stages involving different types of spacecraft, he takes into account things like the motion of Mars relative to the Earth. He suggests means of creating gravity on the way by spinning the craft on a tether. His lectures have the feeling of a pipe dream. A dream which I very much doubt would ever come to fruition. In one of his lectures he makes the following statement,

“The idea that we cannot go to Mars until much more advanced propulsion systems that can get us to Mars in 30 days is erm, is not a valid argument and I believe it’s disingenuous as well”.

This is a very interesting statement and I would ask the question: Does it point to some knowledge he already has about advanced propulsion systems? In a lecture I gave recently, I postulated that the TR3B, a secret spacecraft allegedly developed by the NSA and USAF, which is claimed to use plasma field propulsion could possibly travel to Mars in around 3 weeks. My postulated figure is quite close to the figure stated in Zubrin’s lecture. Does he know more than he is letting on?

Perhaps Zubrin is genuine when he wrestles with the concepts of devising realistic ways of getting people to and from Mars using white world technology, but perhaps by making all the noise he does about all of the problems we need to overcome, he is a good tool to those orchestrating a cover up. Zubrin was a staff engineer at Lockheed Martin for many years, where it is known secret craft and probably secret propulsion systems have been developed. I could not find information on which years Zubrin worked at Lockheed Martin, nor what he actually did there.

11. CONCLUSION

If one considers each piece of evidence in isolation, then the hypothesis would not be a strong one. However, taking into account all of the evidence presented in this document, I would contend the hypothesis is strong. If I was asked to put a figure to this evidence, I would say it is 75% certain that images published by NASA from the Mars rovers are actually photographs taken on Earth.

There are other areas of research which could be used to strengthen the hypothesis that I have not considered, such as the plausibility of the techniques used to lower the rovers to the surface of Mars, and the lack of documented evidence of testing of these systems. Another way to prove the hypothesis beyond a reasonable doubt would be to discover the areas on Earth where the rovers have been taking their photographs and compare the landscape in the NASA images with these locations.

If the hypothesis is true, it does not mean there have been no missions to Mars, or even that Man has not piloted craft to and from Mars. NASA claims to have satellites orbiting Mars, and although outside the scope of this document, we could ask: are the orbiter images really coming from Mars? We might also ask: why did NASA not land any of their rovers at more interesting locations on Mars, such as the “dome” formation or in Cydonia? We have seen clear evidence of image faking in the NASA Apollo images; therefore should we not be sceptical about images alleged to be taken from much further afield.

There may be secret missions, manned or unmanned powered by undisclosed technology, such as the TR3B, taking place on a regular basis. Deceiving the public by presenting them with fake exploration missions of Mars, could be being done for several reasons. Perhaps a high level decision was made at some point in time, which dictated that the public must not be allowed to see any images taken from the surface of Mars. Perhaps this was done because somebody is trying to conceal what is really there.

The next question which would logically follow would be: What might really be there that some would want kept secret? Below is a list of speculative suggestions, which I put out for further discussion,

What might be being hidden on the surface of Mars?

- Evidence of past advanced civilisations, (human or otherwise)
- Inhabited manmade bases that have already been set up in secret
- Secret spacecraft or spaceports
- The fact that the planet’s makeup might be significantly different to the accepted scientific model
- Alien life exists on Mars

If any of the above were true, is it possible that those in control of this information would prevent it from becoming common knowledge on Earth for reasons of power, control and stability? In order to prevent it from becoming common knowledge, a viable way of keeping it secret would be to present the public with fake exploration programmes. Is this what the Mars rover missions are really all about?