



Lunar Exploration Initiative

Briefing Topic:

Apollo Traverses and Summary of Science Discoveries

David A. Kring

Rim of Imbrium
impact crater Basin (anorthosite)



Maria of the Nearside of the Moon

1. Oceanus Procellarum (Ocean of Storms)
2. Mare Imbrium (Ocean of Rains)
3. Mare Humorum (Sea of Moisture)
4. Mare Nubium (Sea of Clouds)
5. Mare Serenitatis (Sea of Serenity)
6. Mare Vaporum (Sea of Vapor)
7. Mare Tranquillitatis (Sea of Tranquility)
8. Mare Crisium (Sea of Crises)
9. Mare Fecunditatis (Sea of Fertility)
10. Mare Nectaris (Sea of Nectar)



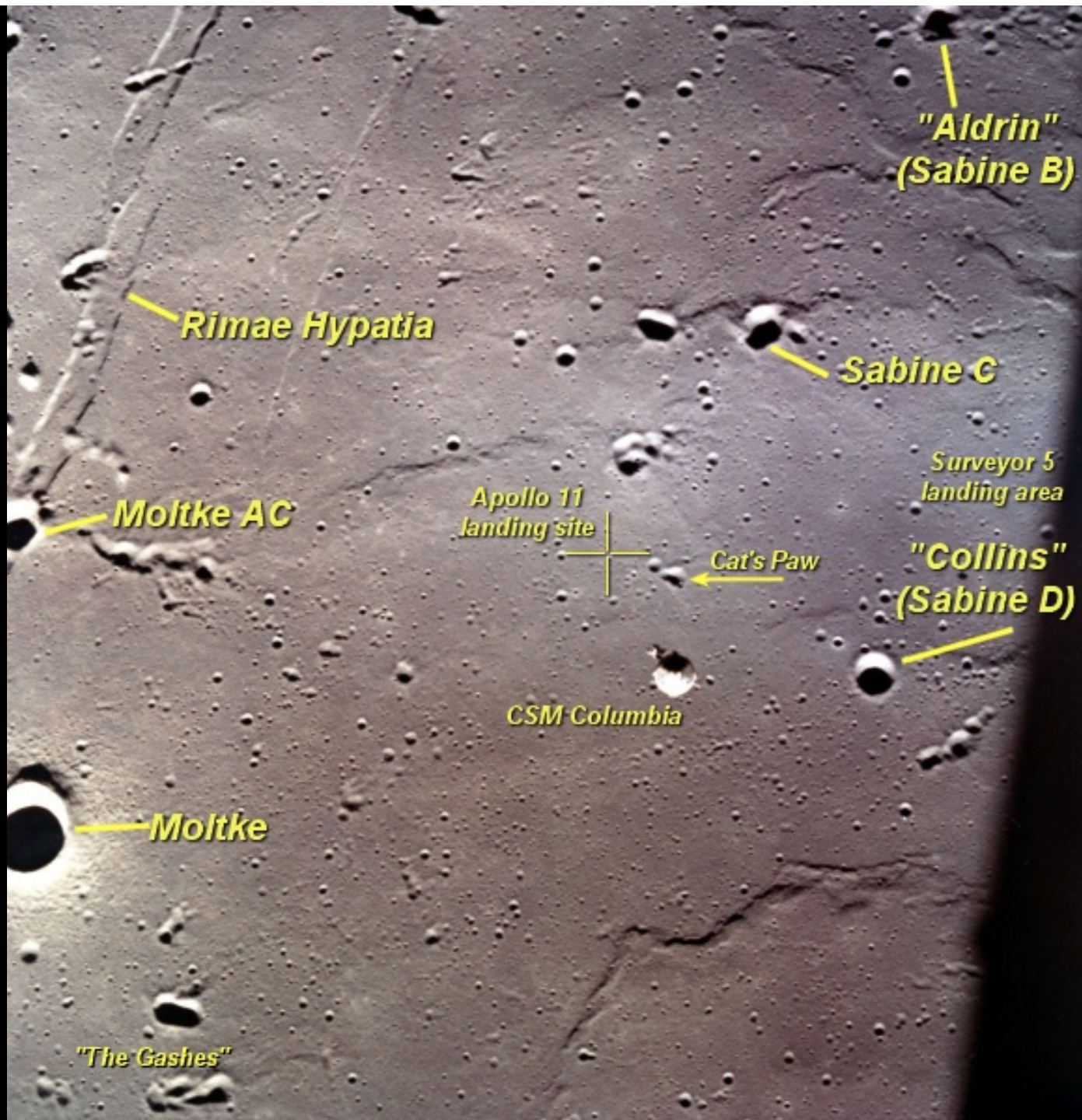
Apollo 11 Mare Tranquillitatis

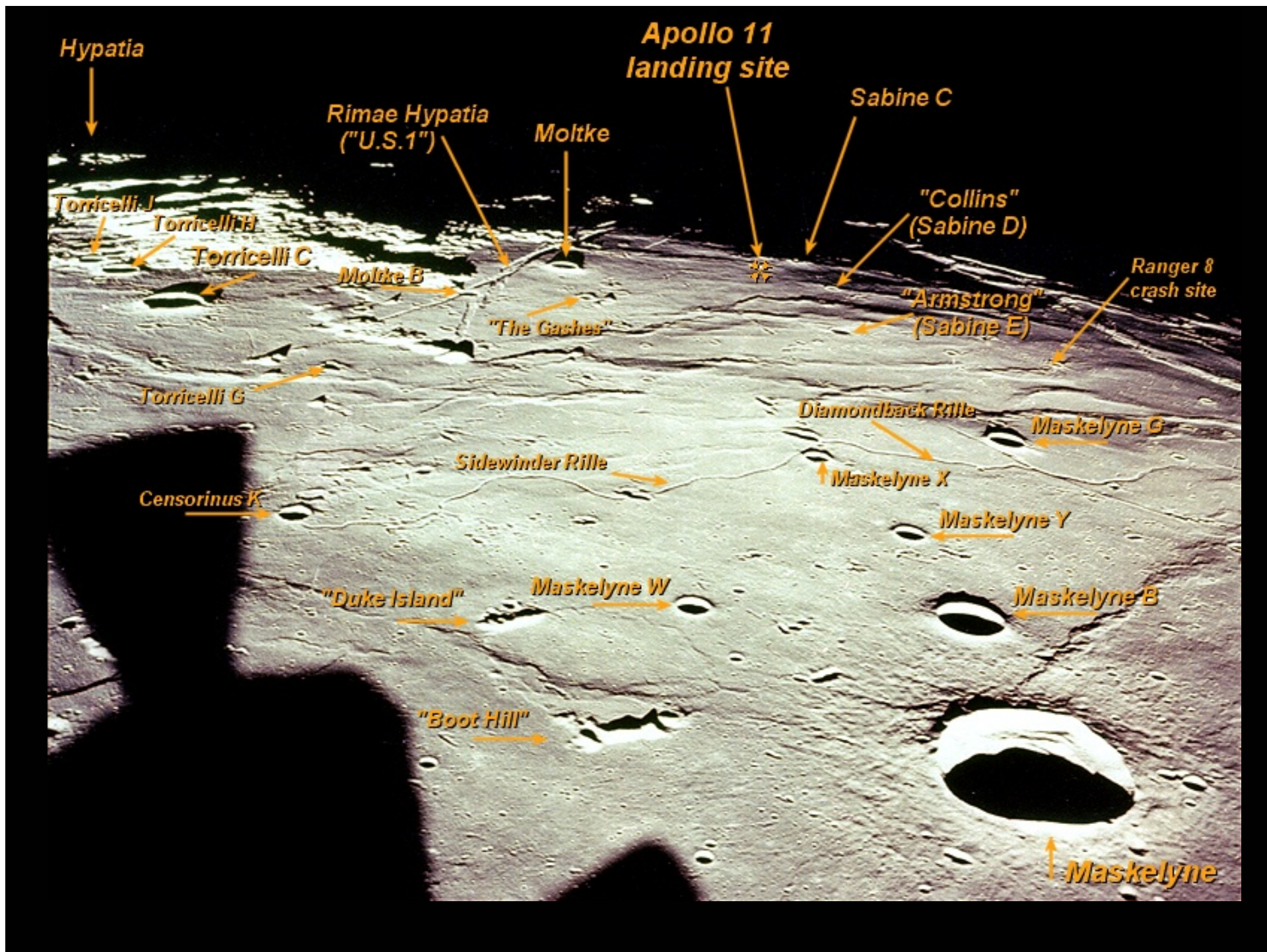
Objectives: Sample relatively old mare surface

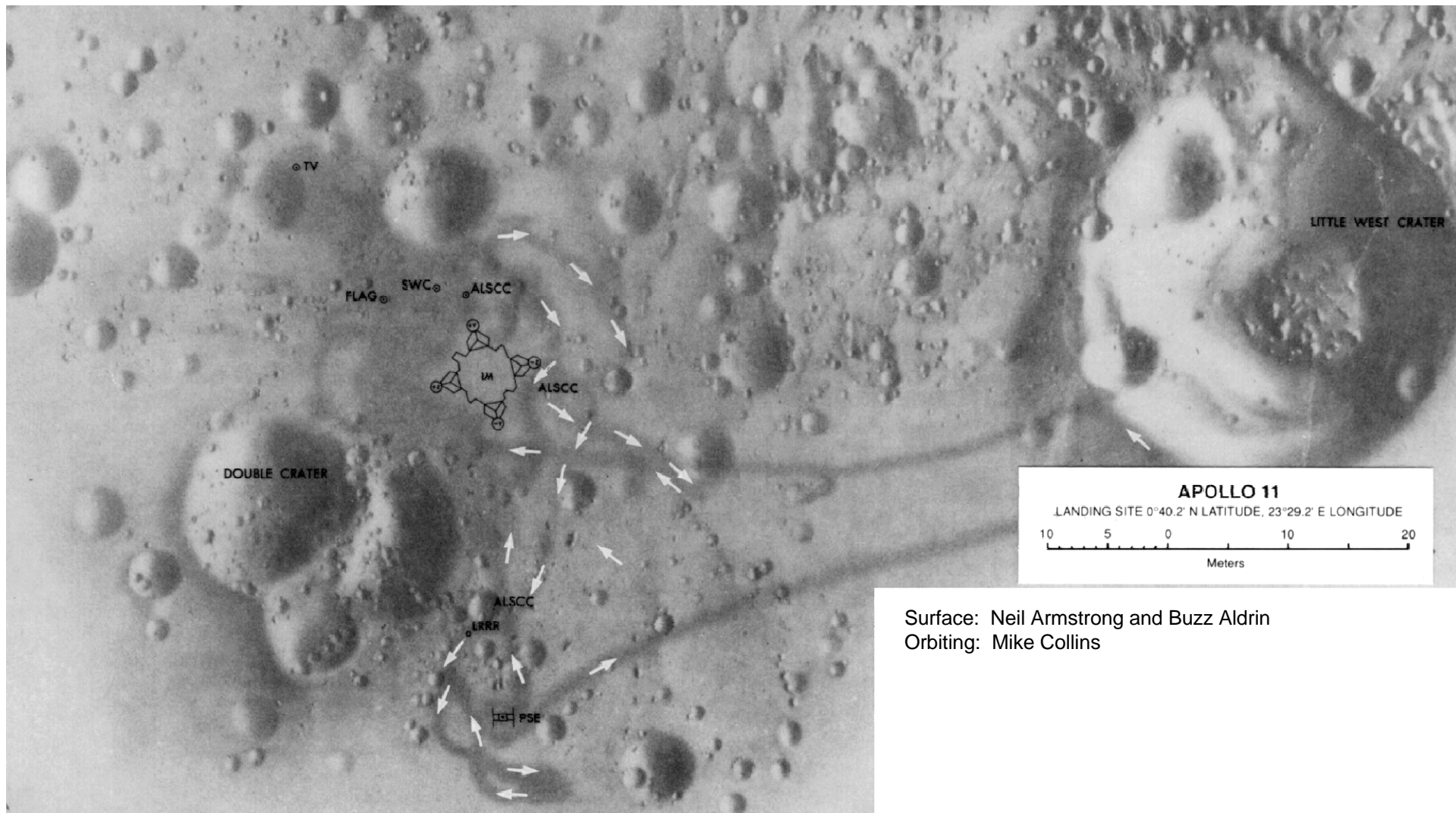
Results: Basalts high in Fe and Ti
Basalts are 3.57 to 3.88 Ga
Feldspathic lithic fragments found (a few percent of samples)

Conclusions: Water not important
Maria are very old
Maria are volcanic
At least two chemically distinct basalts of different ages
suggest at least 2 lava flows occur at landing site
Feldspathic material is ejecta from highlands
Moon formed as a magma ocean and the highlands
represent the initial anorthositic crust that floated on
magma ocean
Most craters have an impact origin and are not volcanic

Other notes: Prime mission was not a science mission; rather, it was
to land safely on the Moon and return to Earth







Surface: Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin
Orbiting: Mike Collins

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GEOLOGIC CROSS-SECTION OF THE APOLLO 11 LANDING SITE

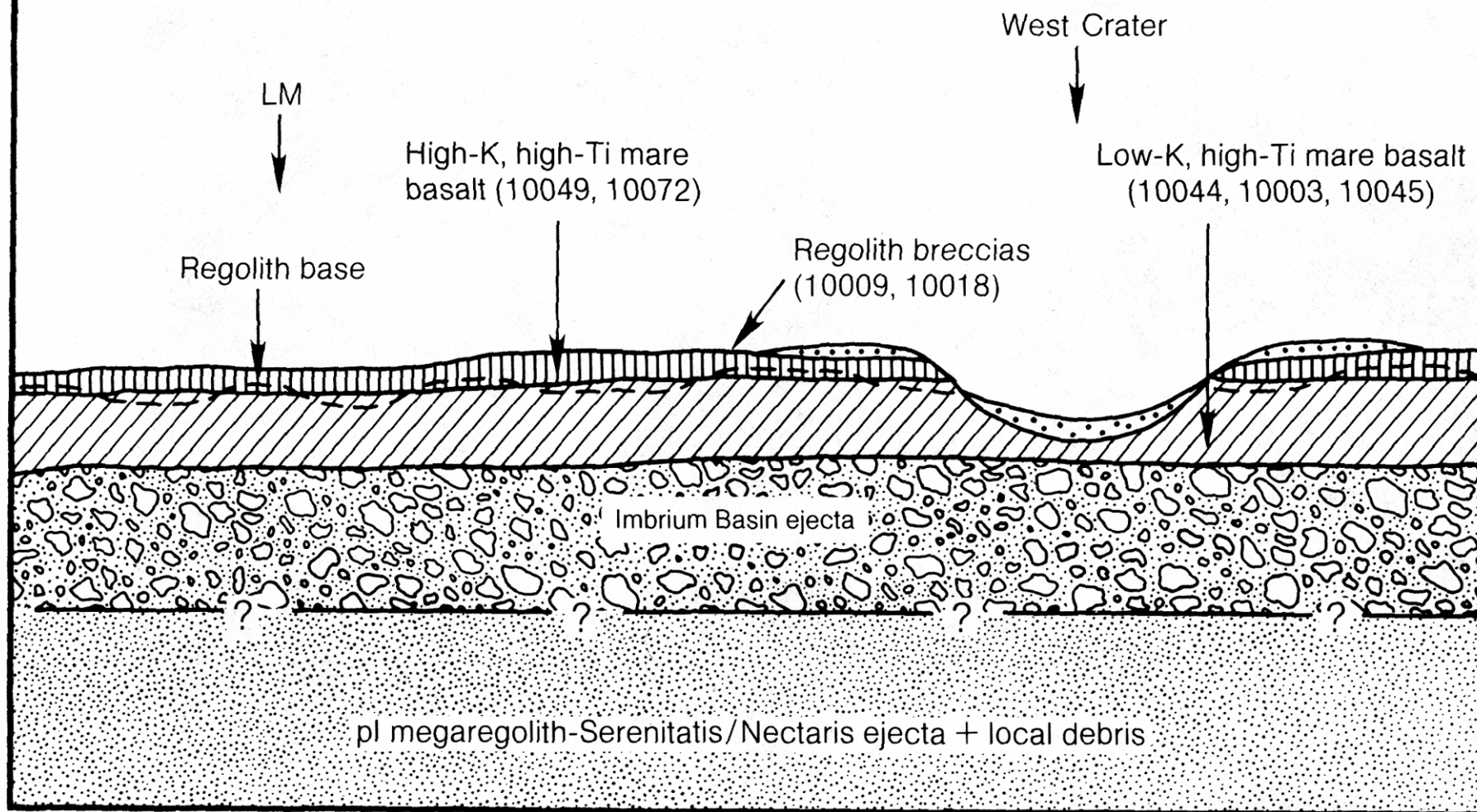
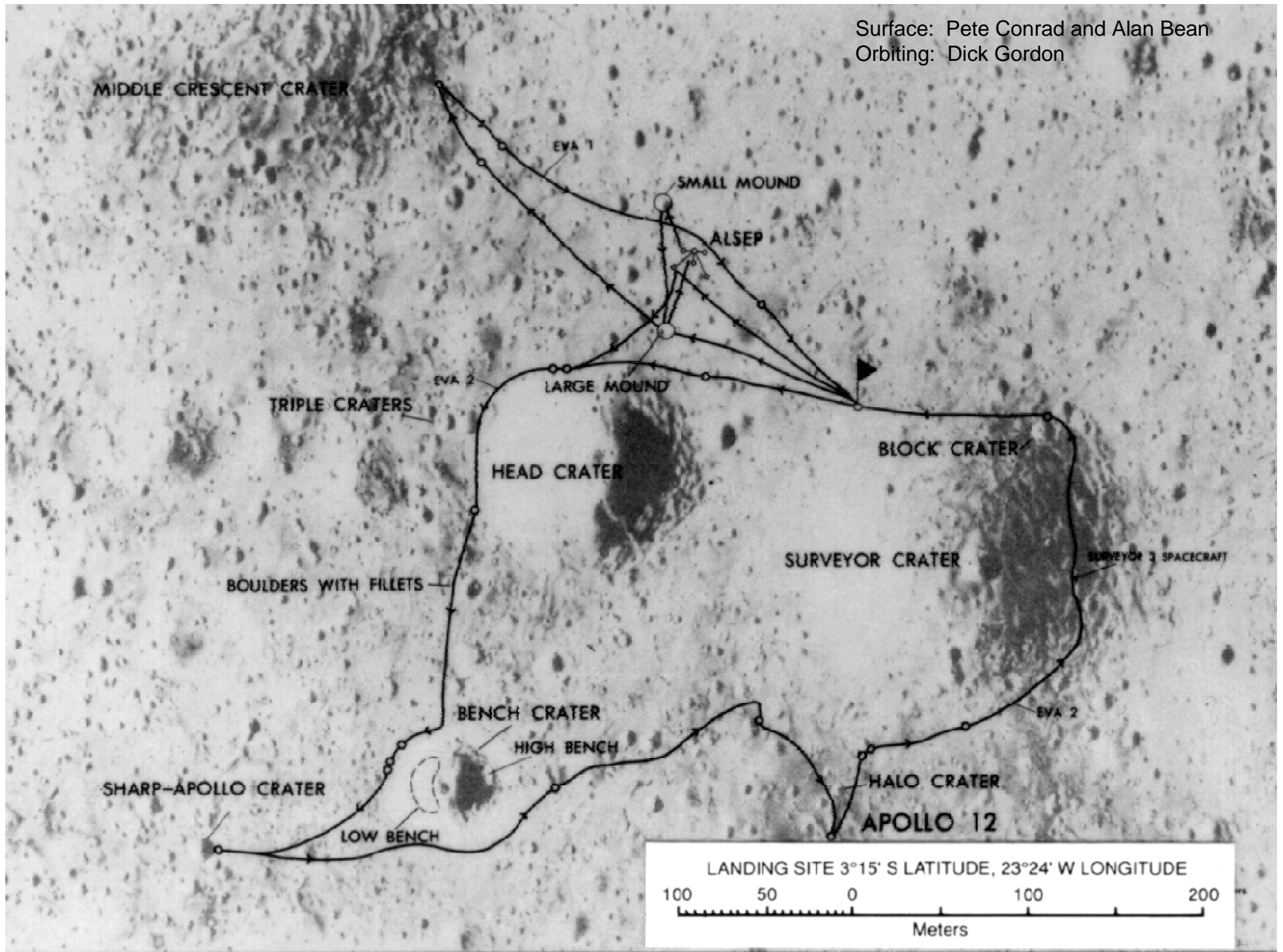


Figure credit: Lunar Sourcebook

Apollo 12 Oceanus Procellarum

- Objectives:** Sample relatively young mare
(less cratered surfaces than at Apollo 11 site)
Sample possible ray from Copernicus impact crater
(400 km north of landing site)
- Results:** Basalts are approximately 3.29 to 3.08 Ga,
representing three chemically distinct groups
KREEP component detected in agglutinate glasses
and polymict breccias
- Conclusions:** “Young” mare are actually old
Copernicus may have formed ~0.9 Ga, although it is not
clear if the samples collected really are from the crater
“Granite” exists on the Moon
- Other notes:** Another objective was to land near Surveyor 3;
crew successfully landed within 200 m of Surveyor 3

Surface: Pete Conrad and Alan Bean
Orbiting: Dick Gordon



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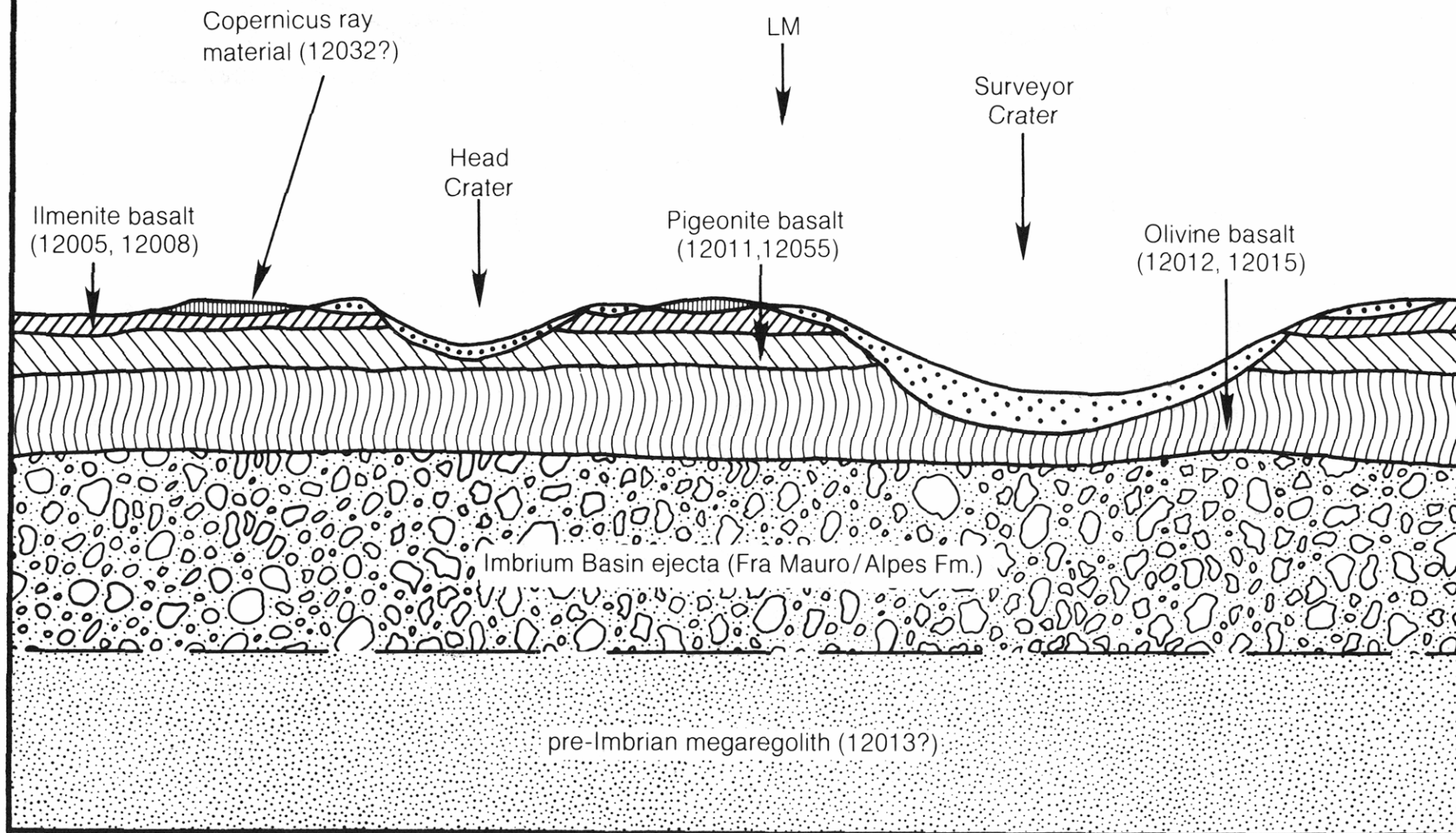
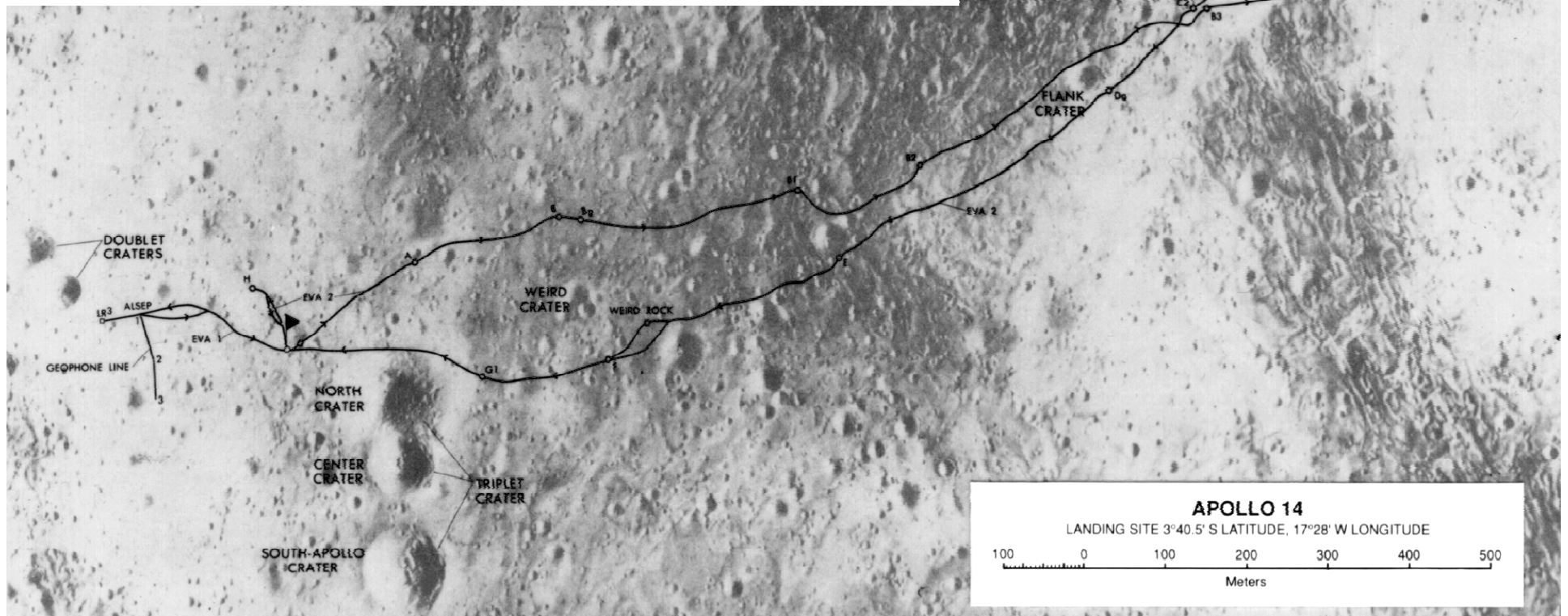


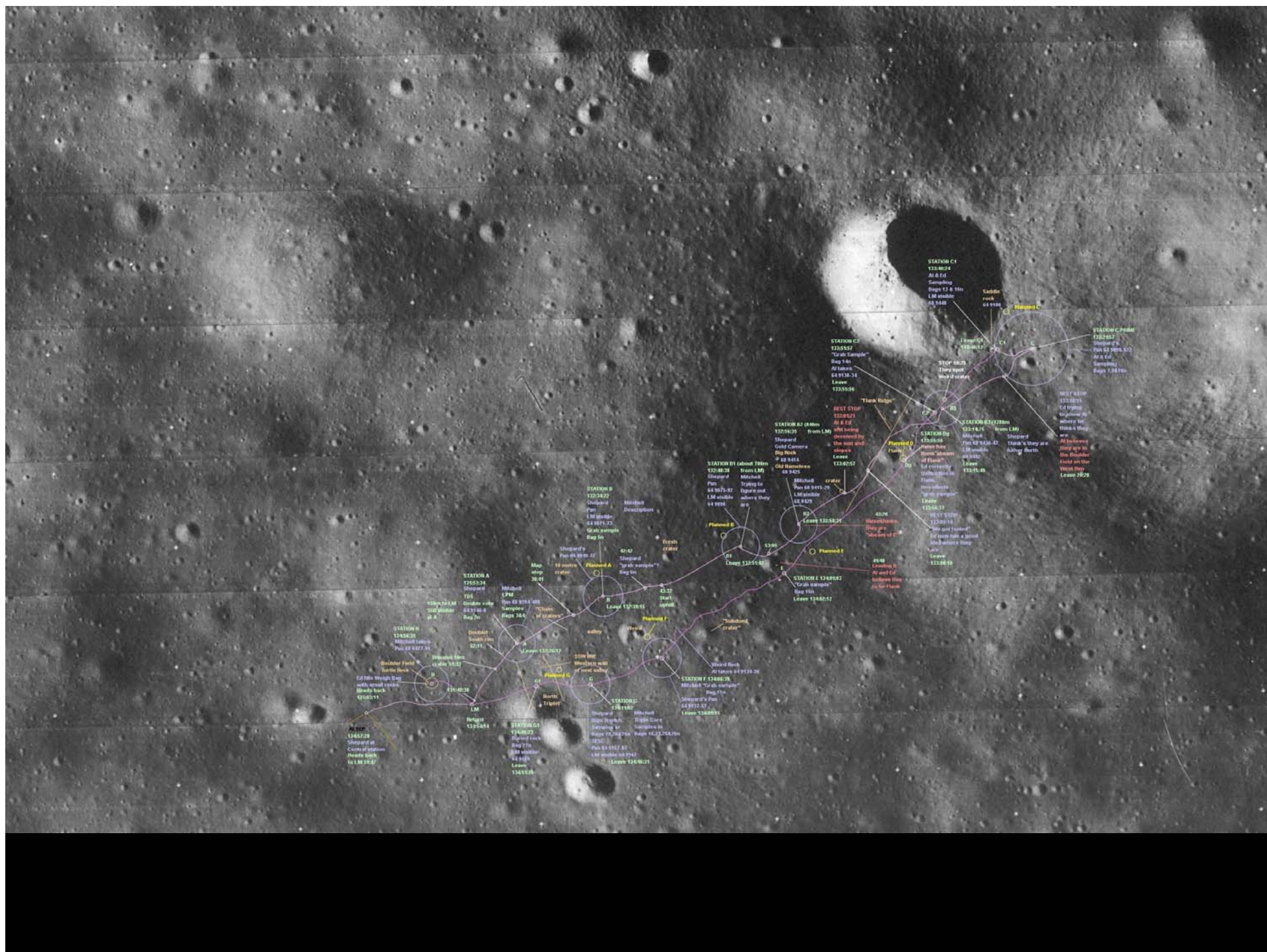
Figure credit: Lunar Sourcebook

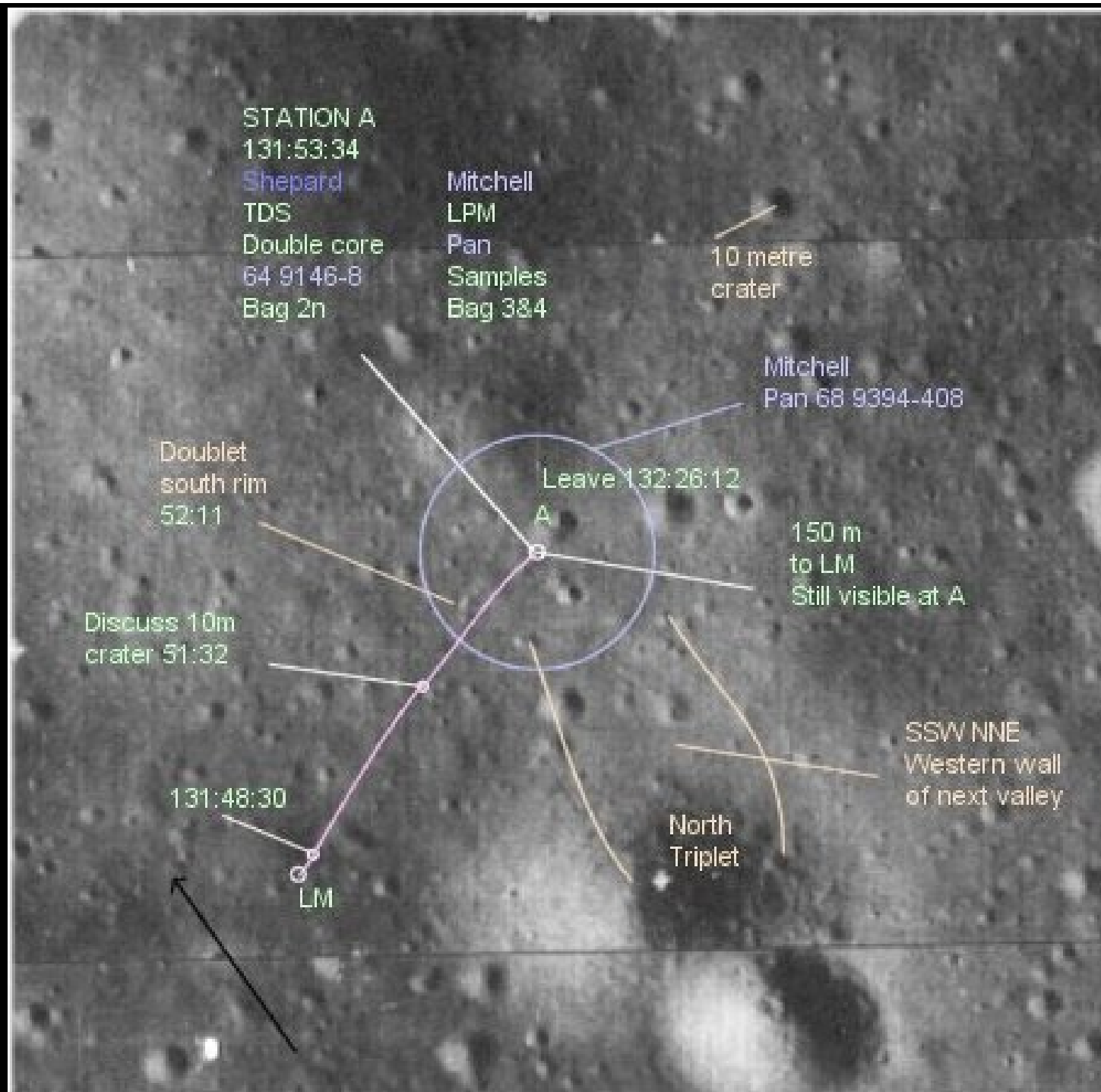
Apollo 14 Fra Mauro

- Objectives:** Sample highland material
Sample impact ejecta from the Imbrium basin,
to help calibrate lunar stratigraphic record and
to potentially sample material excavated from deep within
highland crust
- Results:** Complex fragmental breccias, impact melt breccias,
and clast-poor impact melts discovered,
generally with basaltic and KREEP-rich compositions
(Low-K and High-K Fra Mauro “basalts”)
Breccias dominantly 3.9 to 4.0 Ga
- Conclusions:** Region is an ejecta blanket of Imbrium basin
Imbrium basin formed ~3.9-4.0 Ga
Trace-element-rich rocks are very abundant

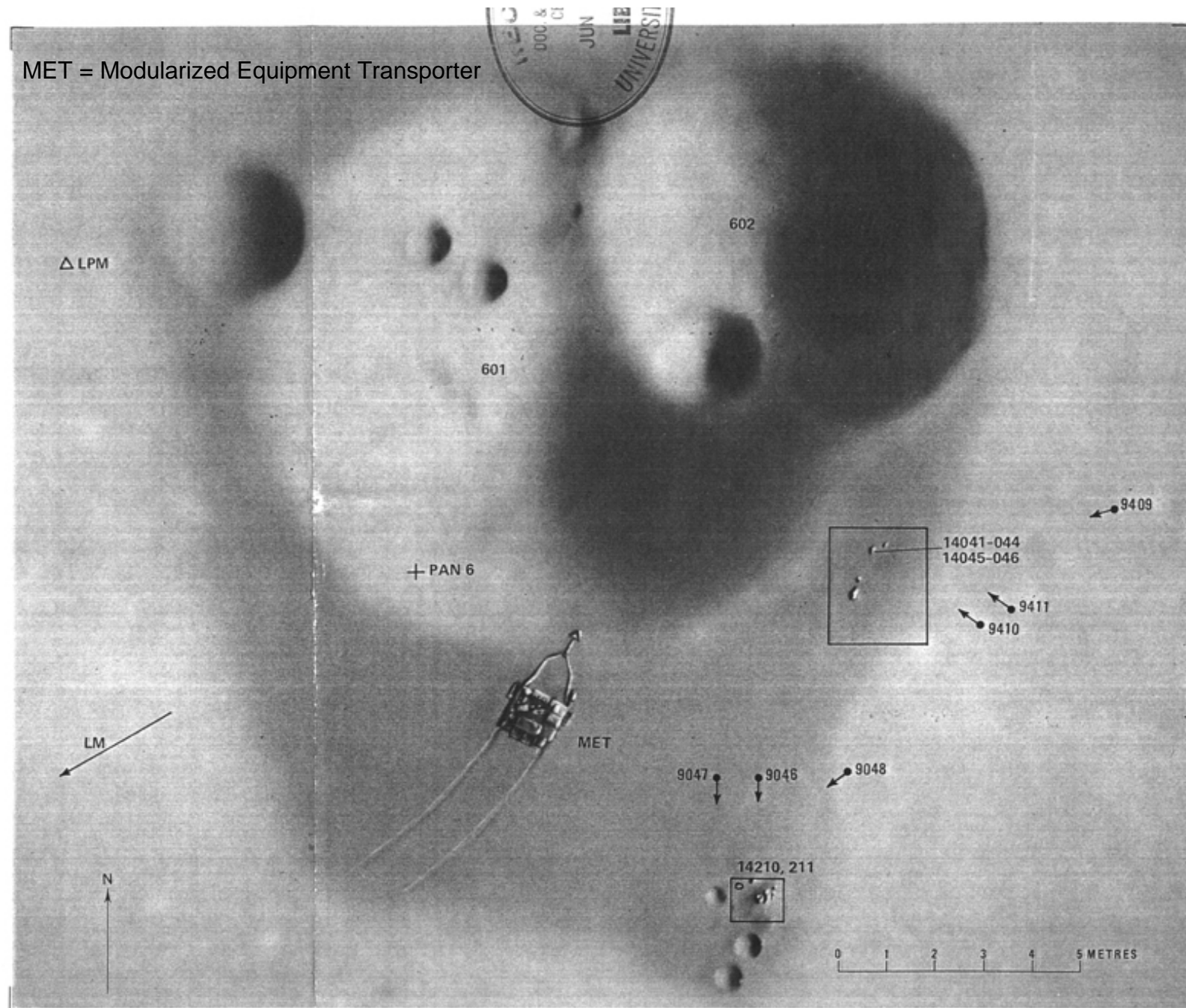
Surface: Alan Shepard and Ed Mitchell
Orbiting: Stu Roosa







MET = Modularized Equipment Transporter



Shaded relief by Patricia M. Bridges

SHADED RELIEF MAP OF STATION A

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GEOLOGIC CROSS-SECTION OF THE APOLLO 14 LANDING SITE

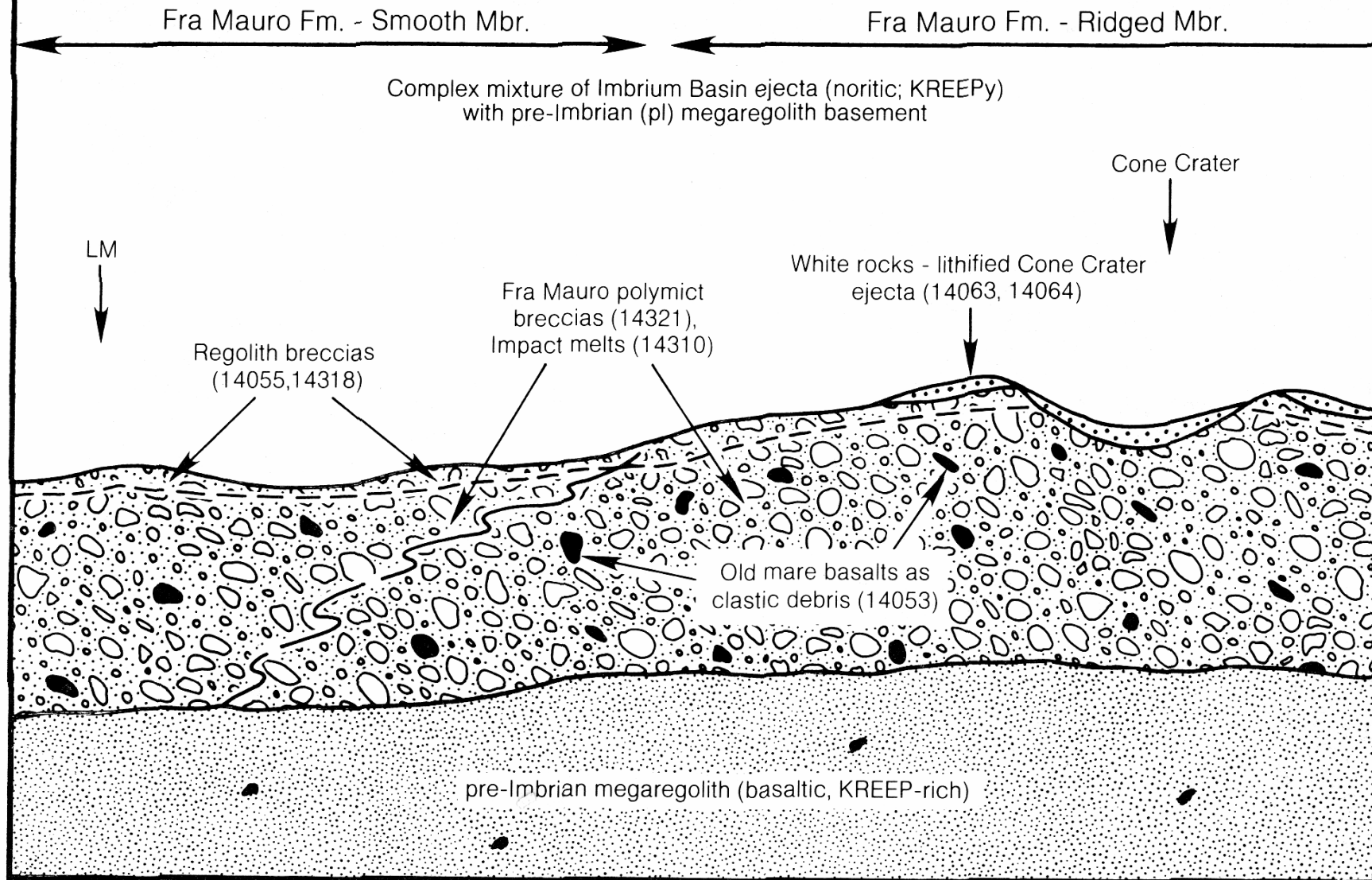
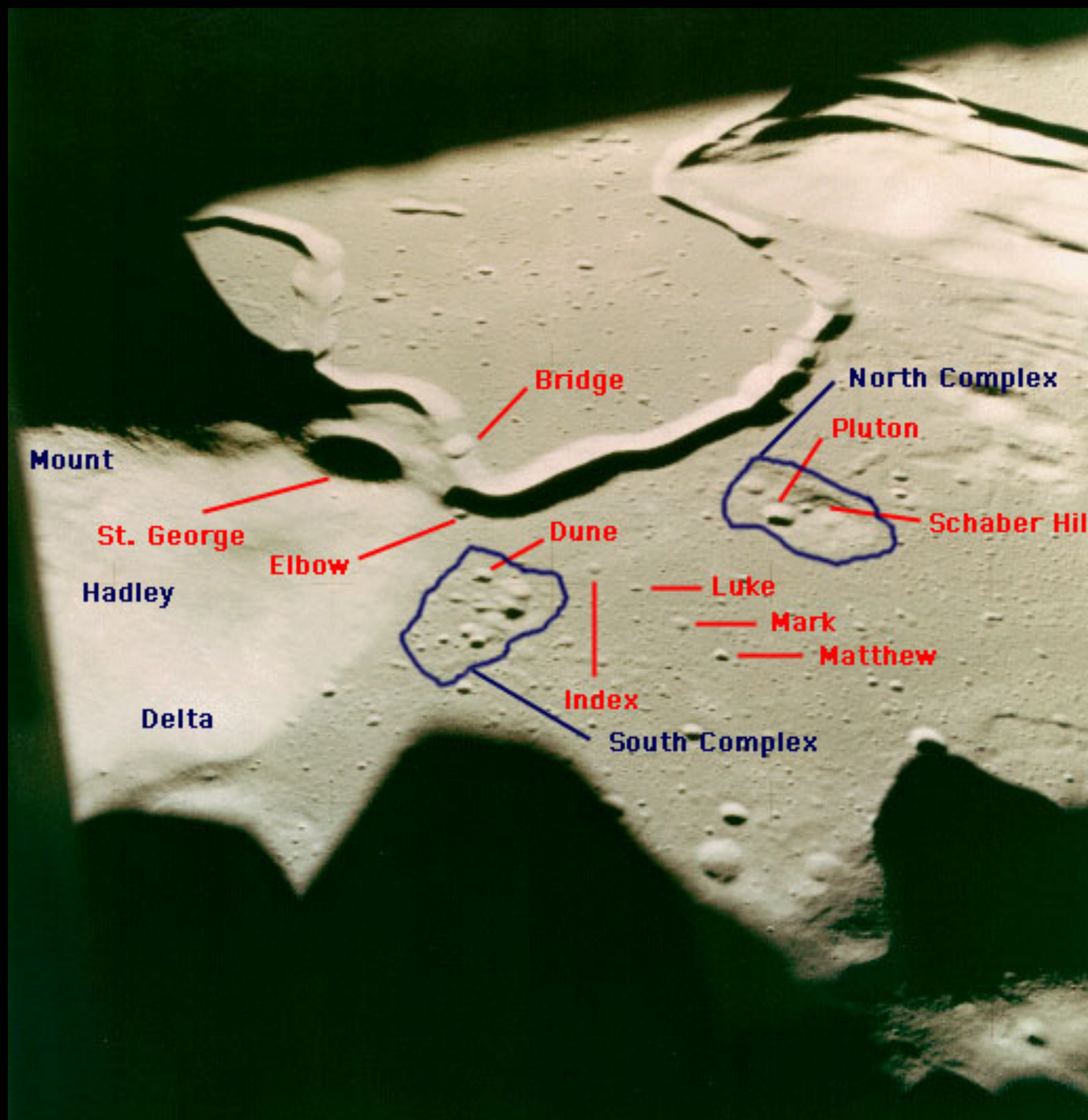


Figure credit: Lunar Sourcebook

Apollo 15 Hadley/Apennine

Objectives:	Sample mountainous rings of Imbrium basin (massifs and highlands) Sample lavas and landforms of Palus Putredinus (Hadley Rille and Mare Imbrium)
Results:	Highlands material composed of anorthosites, Mg-suite plutonic rocks, impact melts, and granulites Imbrium-type breccias are 3.5 Ga Other impact lithologies are ~3.9-4.1 Ga Two distinct chemical groups of mare basalts (quartz normative and olivine normative) Both groups of basalts have same age, ~3.3 Ga A nonmare basalt, aluminous and KREEP-rich discovered Volcanic (pyroclastic) ultramafic green glass spherules discovered
Conclusions:	Highlands have a complex composition Mare Imbrium not produced by impact Rille is a collapsed lava tube (with layers of lava visible)
Other notes:	First advanced (J) mission and first sent to a complex, multi- objective landing site



Surface: Dave Scott and Jim Irwin
Orbiting: Al Worden



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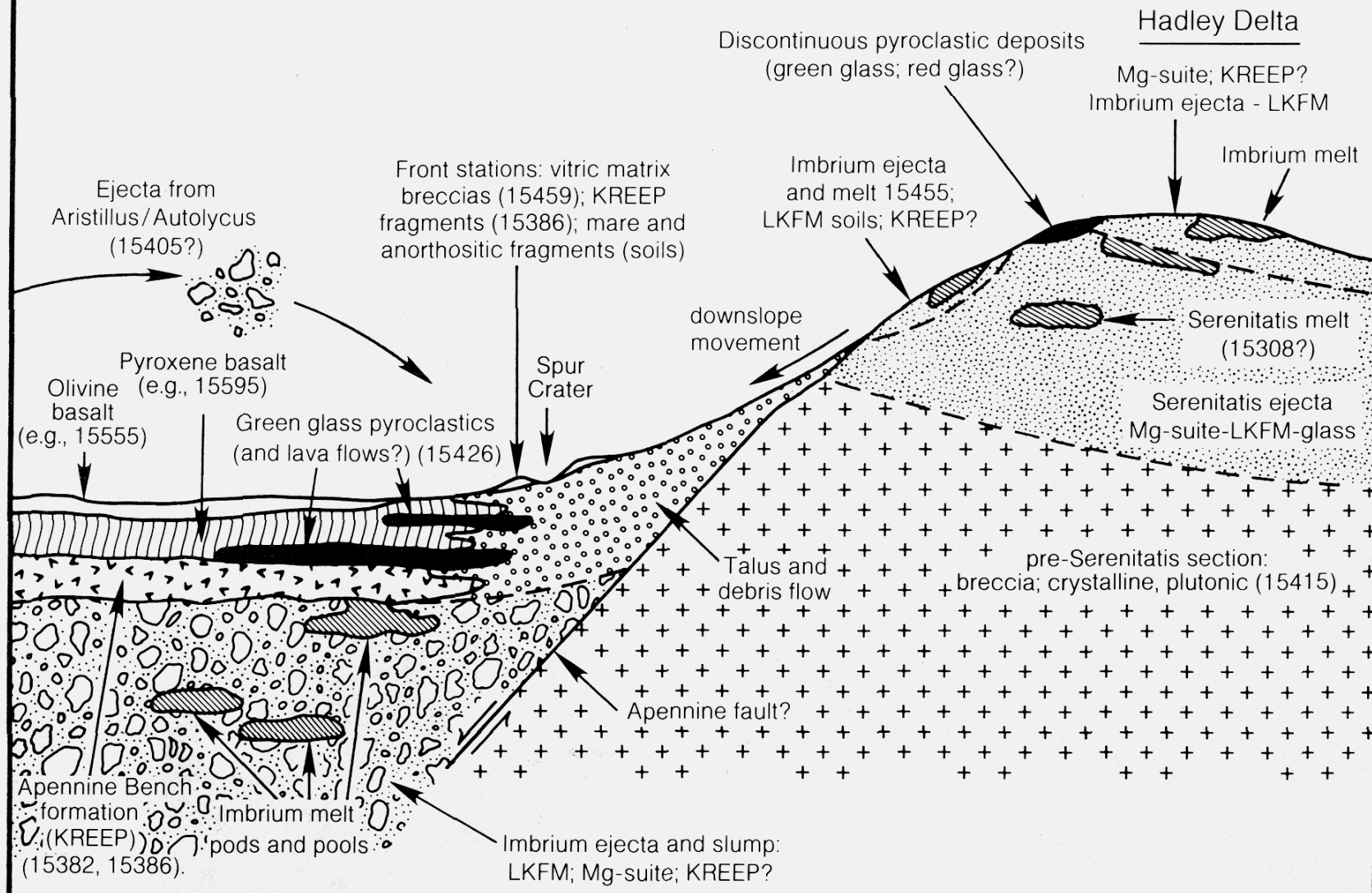
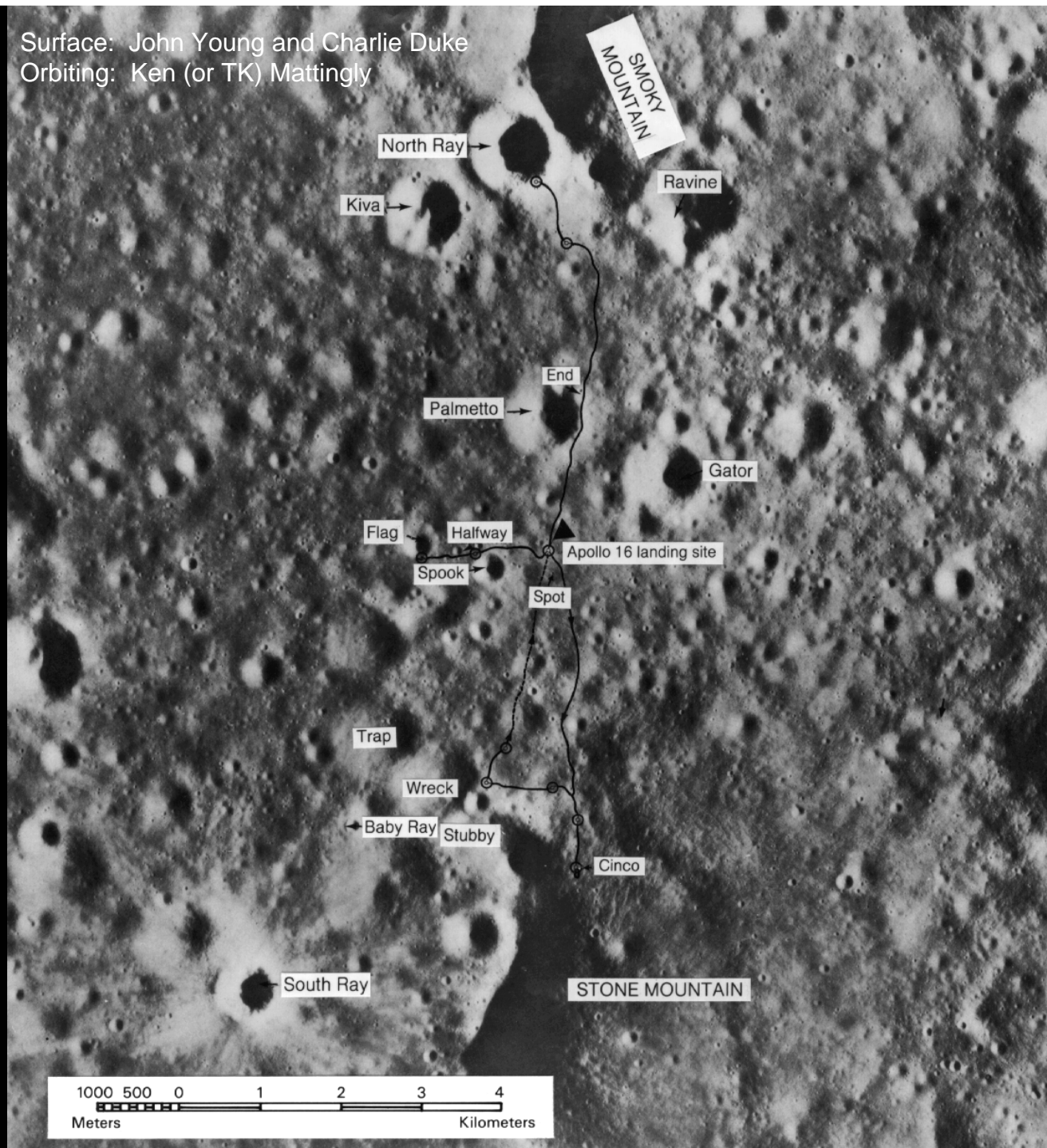


Figure credit: Lunar Sourcebook

Apollo 16 Descartes

- Objectives:** Sample two units within the highland terrain, far from any mare material (relatively smooth Cayley Plains & hilly and furrowed Descartes material, both of which were suspected to be volcanic)
Obtain heat flow in highlands
- Results:** All samples are impact products (in sharp contrast to pre-mission expectations)
Impact breccias ~3.9-4.2 Ga
Sample from Nectaris Basin is 3.92 Ga
- Conclusions:** Most flat highland areas formed by ponded impact ejecta; probably related to major multi-ring impact basins
Highlands are dominantly anorthositic

Surface: John Young and Charlie Duke
Orbiting: Ken (or TK) Mattingly



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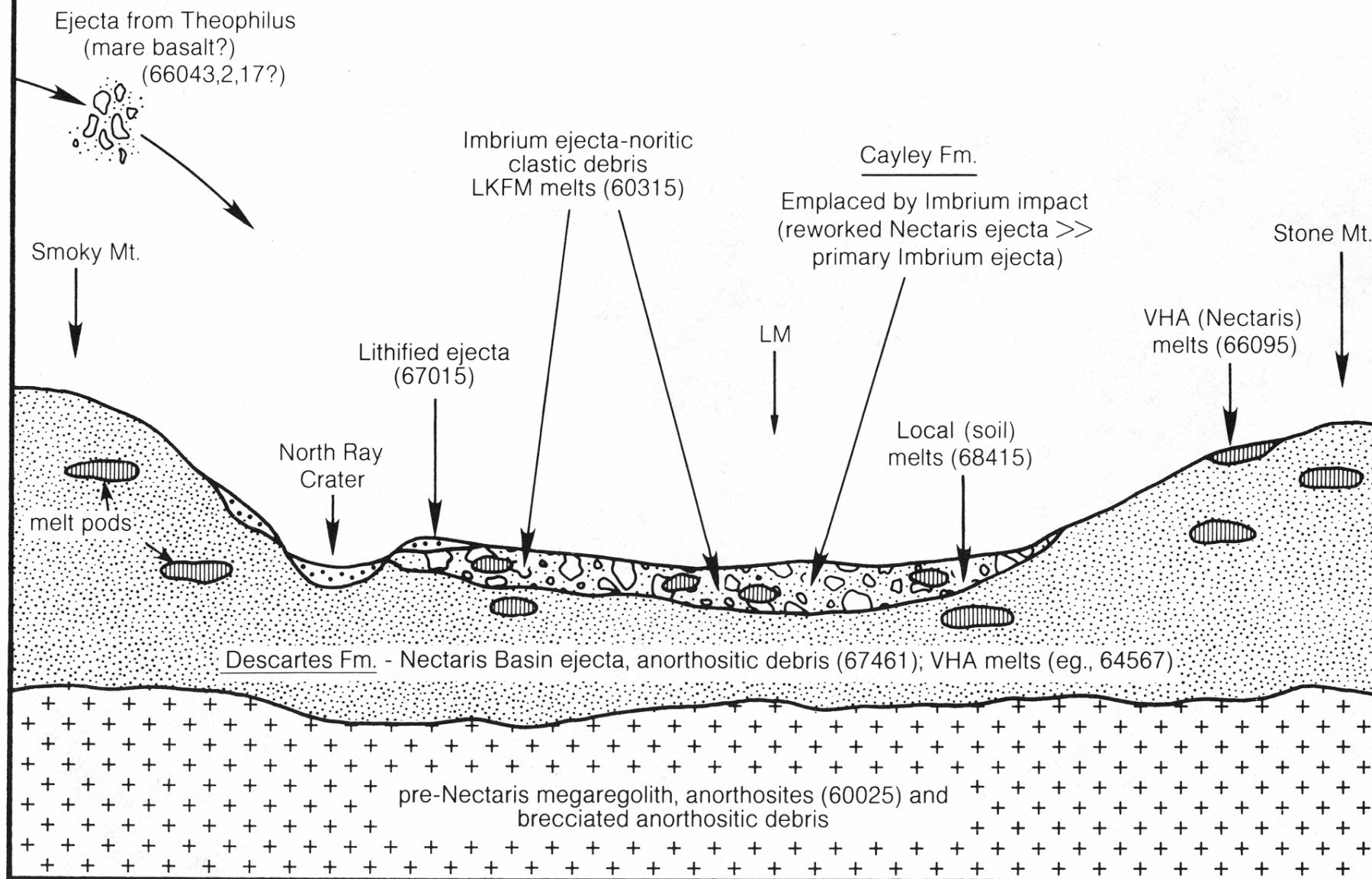
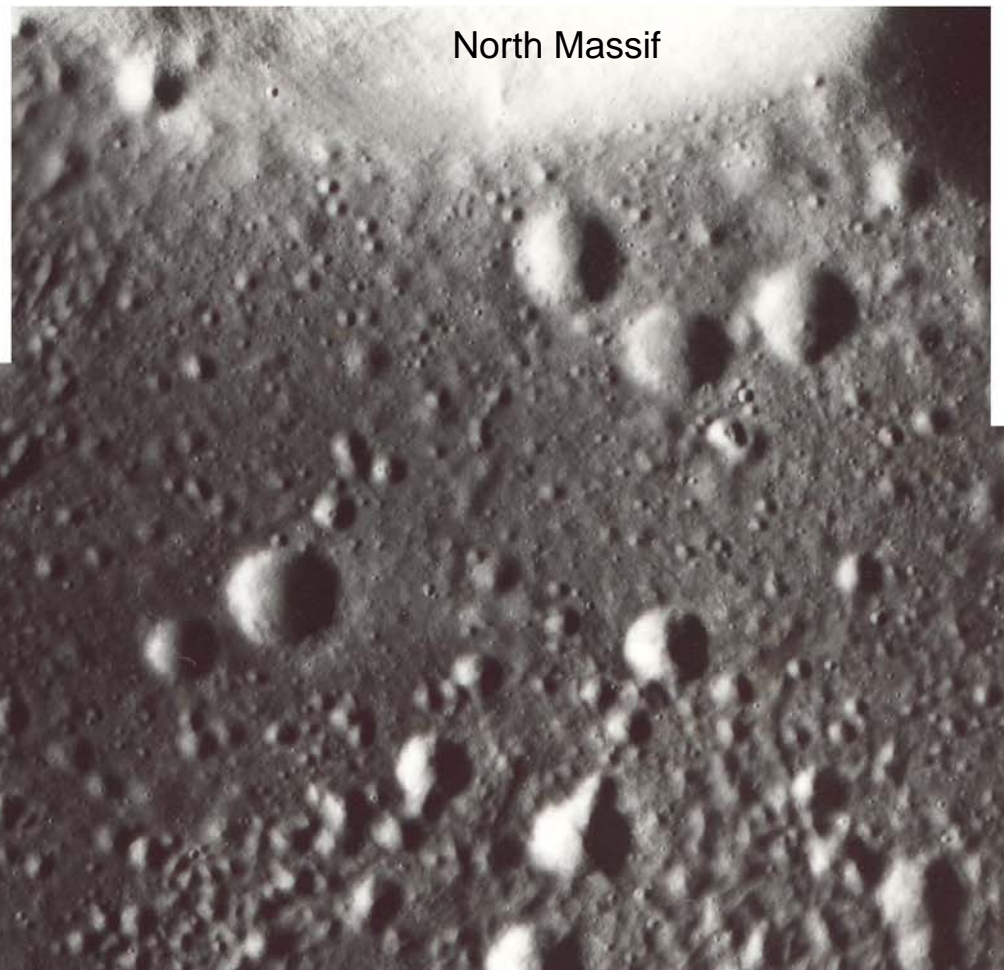


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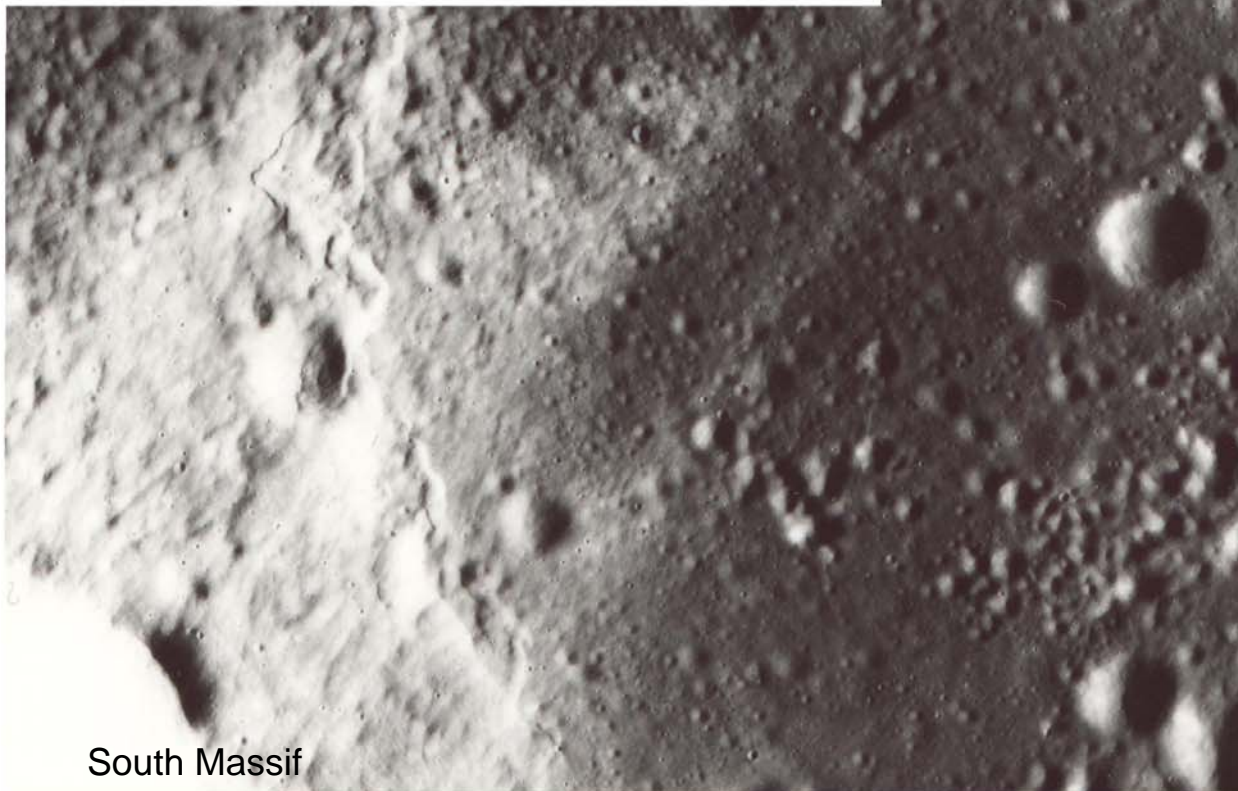
Apollo 17 Taurus-Littrow

- Objectives:**
- Explore highland/mare boundary near SE rim of Serenitatis
 - Sample massifs from an older basin (Serenitatis), perhaps from deep within lunar crust
 - Sample Taurus-Littrow Valley floor, which was suspected to be composed of mare basalts
 - Sample dark material that discontinuously covers highlands and mare material at the site
- Results:**
- Massifs are composed of impact melt breccias and Mg-suite plutonic rocks
 - Impact breccias ~3.87 Ga, possibly age of Serenitatis Basin
 - Basalts are similar to those at Apollo 11 (high Fe and Ti) and have a similar age of ~3.7 to 3.8 Ga
 - Dark mantling material is orange and black pyroclastic glass spherules ~3.5 Ga
 - Landslide from South Massif occurred 100 Ma and may have been caused by Tycho impact (~2000 km distant)
- Conclusions:**
- Very young volcanism is not evident
 - No anorthosites
 - Orange glass does not imply water

Apollo 17 landing site



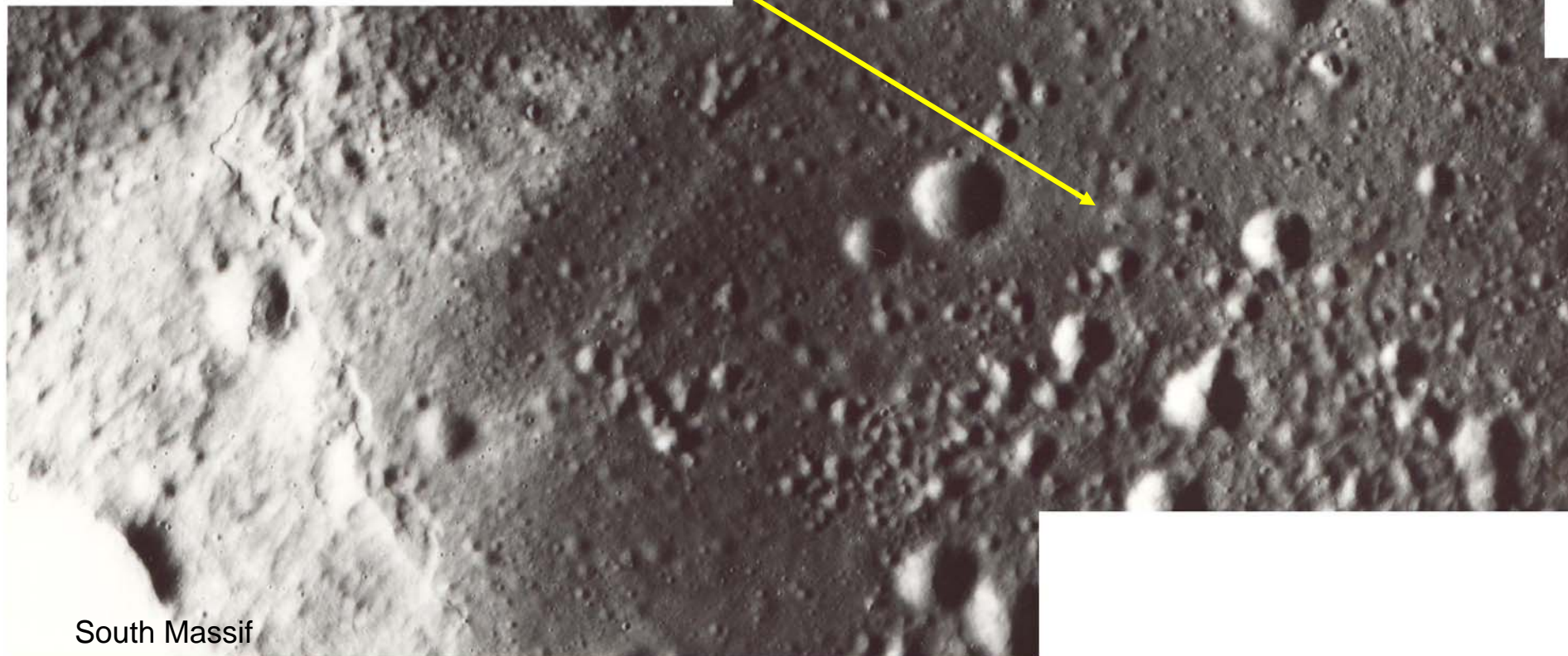
North Massif



South Massif

Apollo 17 landing site

North Massif



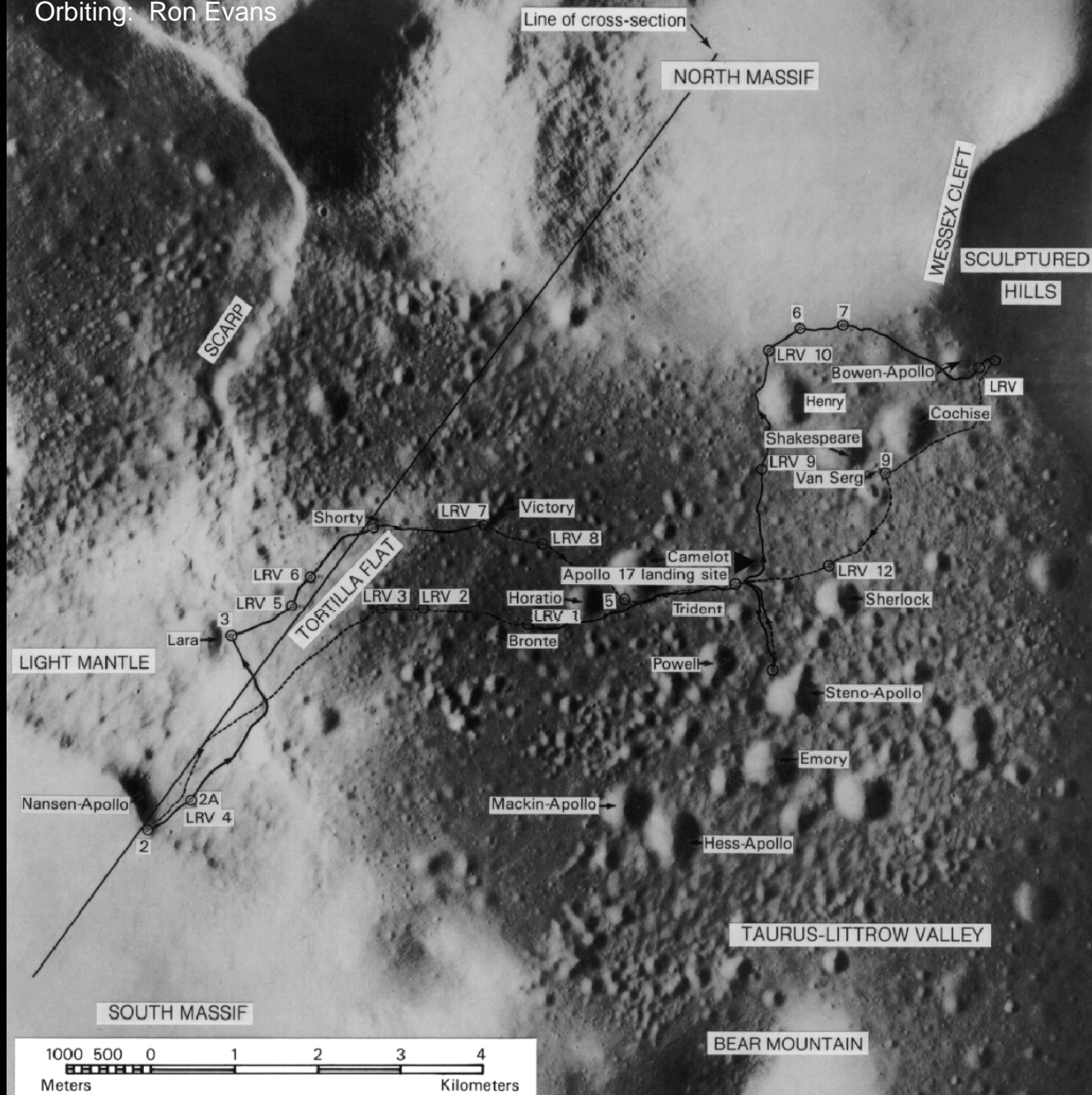
South Massif

Apollo 17 landing site

LM
Poppie
Crater

A black and white photograph of the lunar surface, showing a dense field of craters of various sizes. In the center-right, a small, bright, circular feature is identified as Poppie Crater. Above it, a small, dark, rectangular feature is identified as the Lunar Module (LM). Red lines and text are overlaid on the image to point to these features. The text 'LM' is positioned above a short vertical red line, which points to the Lunar Module. The text 'Poppie Crater' is positioned to the left of a short horizontal red line, which points to the crater.

Surface: Gene Cernan and Jack Schmitt
Orbiting: Ron Evans



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GEOLOGIC CROSS-SECTION OF THE APOLLO 17 LANDING SITE

South Massif

North Massif

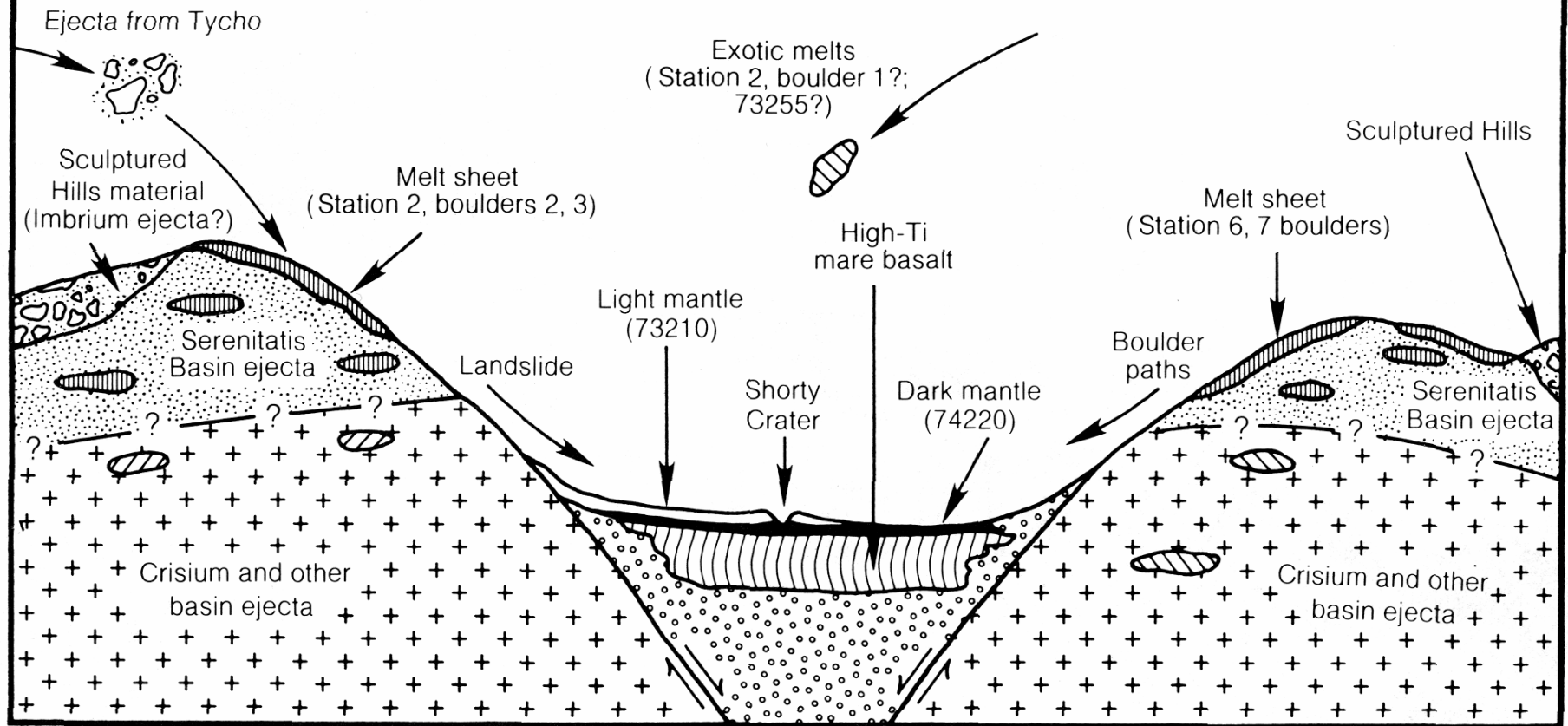


Figure credit: Lunar Sourcebook



Luna 16, 20, and 24

Luna 16	Landed in northern Mare Fecunditatis Found mare basalt regolith that is moderately-high-Ti and high-Al in composition; erupted 3.41 Ga
Luna 20	Landed in the highlands south of the Crisium Basin Found anorthositic regolith (granulite, anorthosite, impact melt, and polymict breccia)
Luna 24	Landed in southern Mare Crisium Found mare regolith with very-low-Ti basalt (also high in Fe and Al), with basalt ages ranging from 3.4 to 3.6 Ga

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GEOLOGIC CROSS-SECTION OF THE LUNA LANDING SITES

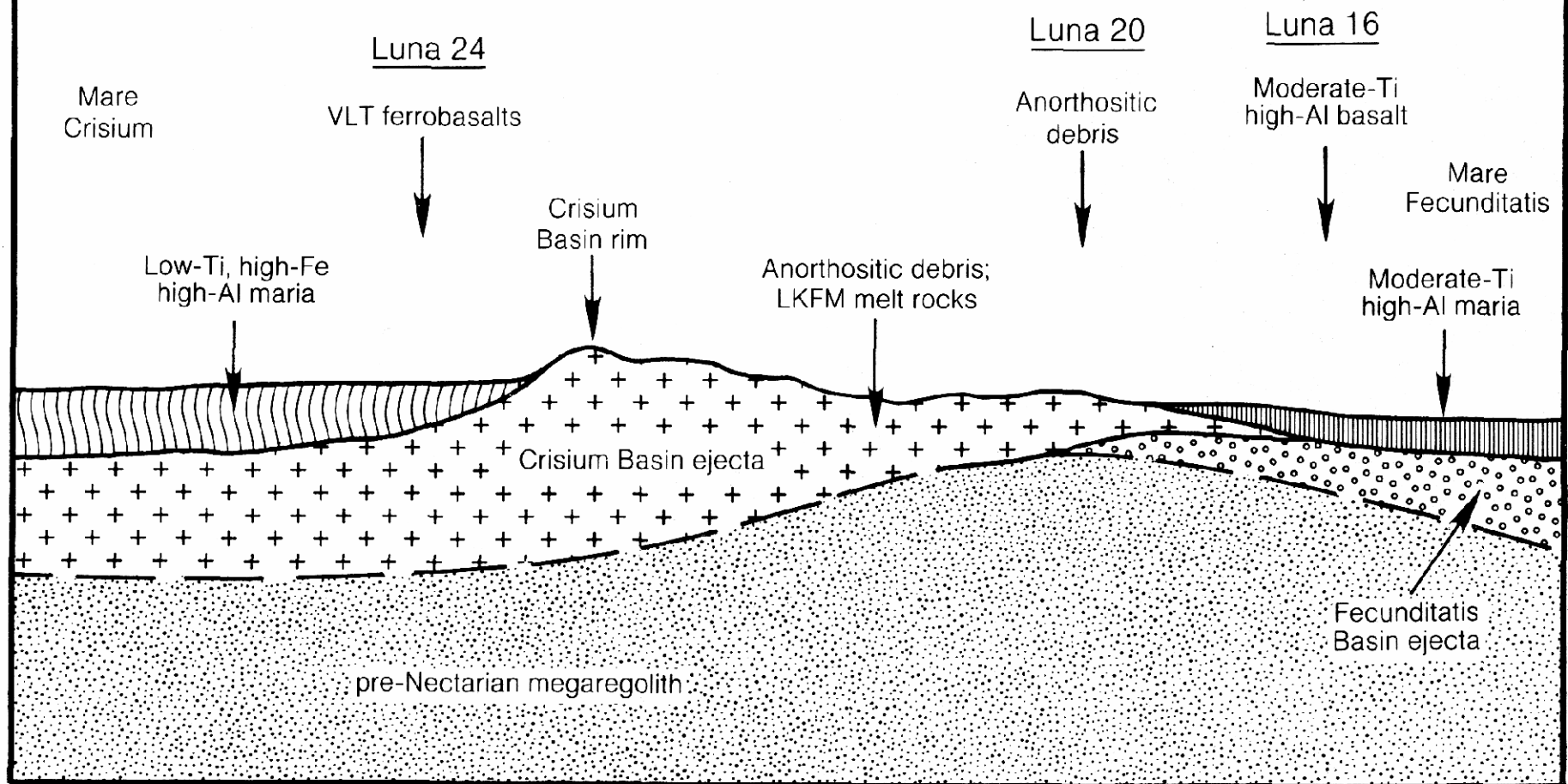


Figure credit: Lunar Sourcebook