

Exploring the Mounds in the Chryse Region ESP_027339_2060



The mounds in this observation may have been formed by a process called "diapirism," where material at depth is more buoyant (i.e., lower density) than the surrounding rocks so it rises to the surface. Why might this be of interest? At HiRISE resolution, we might be able to study the uplifted material more closely, such as if there are clays or other aqueous materials present.

The HIRISE camera onboard the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter is the most powerful one of its kind ever sent to another planet. Its high resolution allows us to see Mars like never before, and helps other missions choose a safe spot to land for future exploration. Thousands of images are available online at: uahirise.org.

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