



Clay-Rich Terrain in Oxia Planum: A Proposed ExoMars Landing Site

The origin of the clays—perhaps due to alteration of volcanic sediments—is of keen interest to researchers looking for a terrain where traces of life have been preserved and could be studied by a rover. Another issue that rover planners have to be aware of is the presence of dunes which could block the traverses of rovers, but this part of Oxia Planum appears benign in that respect as well.