

***Medicago minima* (L.) Bartal.**

Bur Medick

Alien

GB & England: Vulnerable

GB Scarce

VC5 Absent; VC6 Rare

A sprawling annual native to dry, sandy soils of the east coast of England, but occasionally found as an introduction elsewhere, particularly as a wool alien. Recorded occasionally in VC6: known from quarried ground at Twerton between 1915 and 1920 by Miss I.M. Roper and T.H. Green and found as a casual at Newton St Loe by Miss I.M. Roper; found by H. Corder in 1922 as a garden weed in Bridgwater; recorded on a tip in Bristol by C.I. Sandwith in 1941; found at Wookey in 1977 by C.A. Howe. This species was then considered extinct by Green *et al.* (1997), but was discovered in 2008 on a development site in Glastonbury, formerly the site of a tannery and wool tip. *Medicago minima* has been found as an alien throughout England in the past; the Somerset site is within this range. As a native this species is declining as a result of habitat destruction and deterioration (D.A. Pearman in Preston *et al.*, 2002).

VC6

Glastonbury ST487382 2008 HJC, FJR 1 plant on development site for new enterprise park



Medicago minima at Glastonbury (2008). Photo: FJR