

Five Neo-Georgics

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Mowing

They had waited the winter out, and the week
the clouds cleared they arrived,

blades that chilled under tarpaulins now ready
with the new sun to descend on us.

From the municipal garage they took
to the streets, their undeployed limbs

buzzing with the motors that moved them.
At each verge, each reservation, each park

the mowers lowered their rotors to grass –
the drivers, with silence clamped to their ears,

scanned street through their visors, pulled
spindly levers with canvas-gloved hands,

crawled across civic green on thick tyres.
The drone of the fleet was heard high

in the town. They sprayed cuttings
inside themselves, but the smell

of chlorophyll's shrapnel mingled with diesel
to bring tenants onto their balconies.

One vehicle hovered near a fire escape
that rang with the shared vibration, the rise

and fall of mechanical noise as the mower turned.
The yellow bricks glared. Dry leaves,

caked in gutters by the last rain, broke
and shook as workmen began walking the roofs.

Offset

Now the heavy tread in the balance
Lightens tomorrow's load
Turns tilt into an
Upward step—

Grassroots grasp the earth they break
Draw down the life of
Sky in which they
Bury blades—

So read the field and tell me how the green
Pricks the sole to
Keep us on
Our toes—

The ground's collective gesture to horizon
Is a broadcast that discloses coded
Abundance in each
Scaled seed.

Crown estate

ballot the forest floor
to find red/amber/green accounted for
leaving blue to the levelled sky
all cloud cumulus
each modelled cell contributes

we will raise stakes
for green nimbus, yellow cirrus
furnish air with its waxed replacement
the toy nerves of fresh shade
nightbreathers that haunt low sleep

stock falls, samara money we collect
& broadcast at arms' length

axes line trunks
for the landscape's graph
pollarded to plot
the earthed negative
of growth

let them palisade chalk shores
never silhouette for swarms,
spreading hollowed hearts
for tables

& then cracked hands can gesture
to catch the last of sky

from **Application**

Common

and, increasingly, the environment
manorial system, which can
commoners, or between
years ago, but which
has just been implemented
These benefit only the holding
and currently cover only nine English counties
a problem; namely, the difficulty of
common land.
Act, replacing the
need to obtain consent
works include those which prevent or impede
authority, while commoners
Act, however, any person
respects this is good, because it removes
when it can simply say it is open
land. Such land is seen
to try to correct
to apply to remove
applications, where land is removed

Aeration

too long, but
hot topic—and rightly so as, whether
influenced by previous uses, and these alter
Comparisons can thus be instructive.
estates that are keen to reverse
and from those scores a total is derived for
classification: you cannot alter this, but it has
valued on the scale
Their minimum levels need to be held
the speed at which soils warm
options indicate the investment
tool can be of significant help
applications of phosphorous,
on local and management
intervals, but is
increases that can be achieved
of earthworm biomass
to sequester carbon
the answer, as well as a technique