

## Five Neo-Georgics

Matthew Griffiths  
drmjrgriffiths@gmail.com

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.37536/ecozone.2021.12.2.4470>



### 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