Debatable Spaces

‘Have you seen milk morning sun brushing
the tops of willow herb, nettle, thistle, in
the unkempt field behind the car-crashers?
So, somewhat curiously, ask Paul Farley
and Michael Symons Roberts in their book
Edgelands, a loving, inquisitive guide and
extended ode to the marginal, mirage landscapes
of modern England. Together, these writers
wander across what we might perceive to be
neglected and deserted terrains, seeking out
moments of odd grace and glancing beauty in
settings that might customarily be considered
ugly, unappealing or of little value. Usually,
these are the indeterminate territories where
rural and urban converge in peculiar and
sometimes fraught forms. Spaces such as
those at the barely visible borders of towns or
cities, where fraying suburb begins to become
entangled with the complicated patterning of
the contemporary countryside. But, just as
likely, the unveilad places traversed by Farley
and Symons Roberts – places where, as Derek
Mahon once said, ‘even now… a thought
might grow’ – can bring to mind for us the
undeveloped zones of tangled urban forest,
for garden fence: one of those purposeless,
uncontrolled ‘wildlife’. Or again, there is that
unloved places traversed by Farley
and Symons Roberts – places where, as Derek
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Margaret Mcintyre

SILENT, EMPTY, WAITING FOR THE DAY

MARY MCINTYRE

Following Page Left: ‘I Know It, So Does She’ Right: In These Rooms at Night Human Thoughts Stand Still

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A Complex Variety of Greens (from Emerald to Viridian)

Silent, Empty, Waiting for the Day
Poised on the Threshold of my Hearing

The Wordless Exchange