

Country walks through Colonial Britain

Corinne Fowler, Professor of Colonialism & Heritage. University of Leicester

2.30pm Saturday 21st November 2026 at Trinity Methodist Church, Chelmsford CM1 2XB. Visitors and prospective members warmly welcomed – £5. Booking not required.

The British countryside, so integral to our national identity, is rarely seen as having anything to do with British colonialism. In this talk, historian Corinne Fowler brings rural life and colonial rule together. Concentrating on Southern England, Professor Corinne Fowler will share what she discovered about the colonial histories of English villages, hamlets, hedged fields and village churches during her walks through the British countryside.

Corinne Fowler is Professor of Colonialism and Heritage in Museum Studies at the University of Leicester. In 2020 Corinne co-authored an audit of peer-reviewed research about National Trust properties' connections to empire, which galvanized the heritage sector to address its colonial stories and became a major media story. The report won the Museums and Heritage Special Recognition Award, 2022 and an Eastern Eye Award 2023. Before this, Corinne directed Colonial Countryside: National Trust Houses Reinterpreted, a child-led history and writing project (2018-2022), resulting in a book of commissioned writing called *Colonial Countryside* (Peepal Tree Press, July 2024) which was funded by Arts Council England. Corinne's new book *Our Island Stories: Country Walks Through Colonial Britain* was published on 2 May 2024 by Penguin Allen Lane.