

COP26 REPORT

Prepared by: Mike Bluestone & Neil Shanks

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CORPS
SECURITY

COP26 Report

From 1st November -12th November 2021, the Scottish Events Campus (Exhibition Way, Glasgow G3 8YW – what3words locations: ///stove.never.looks, ///august.bottle.visa, ///cheese.porch.tools, and ///flap.gown.aside) will host the 26th United Nations Conference of Parties on Climate Change, also known as COP26. The event has been prevalent in the media for a number of months,

with interest from single issue activist groups, as well as general activist groups increasing as the event approaches. The event will host a delegation consisting of senior members of government and industry with a view to address concerns over climate change.



Impact on the Glasgow Region

There are multiple planned and predicted disruptions to business and city services around the Glasgow region. These are addressed on the publicly available [GetReadyGlasgow](#) website. These include multiple road closures, additional burden on public transport, and potential disruption to refuse collections. There are no camping facilities within the city, and none will be provided for those visiting the area. There will be an increased Police presence in and around the City to ensure order is maintained.

The predicted impact on travel can be seen in these images provided in Fig 1 (sources from GetReadyGlasgow and available in a larger scale at the end of the document):

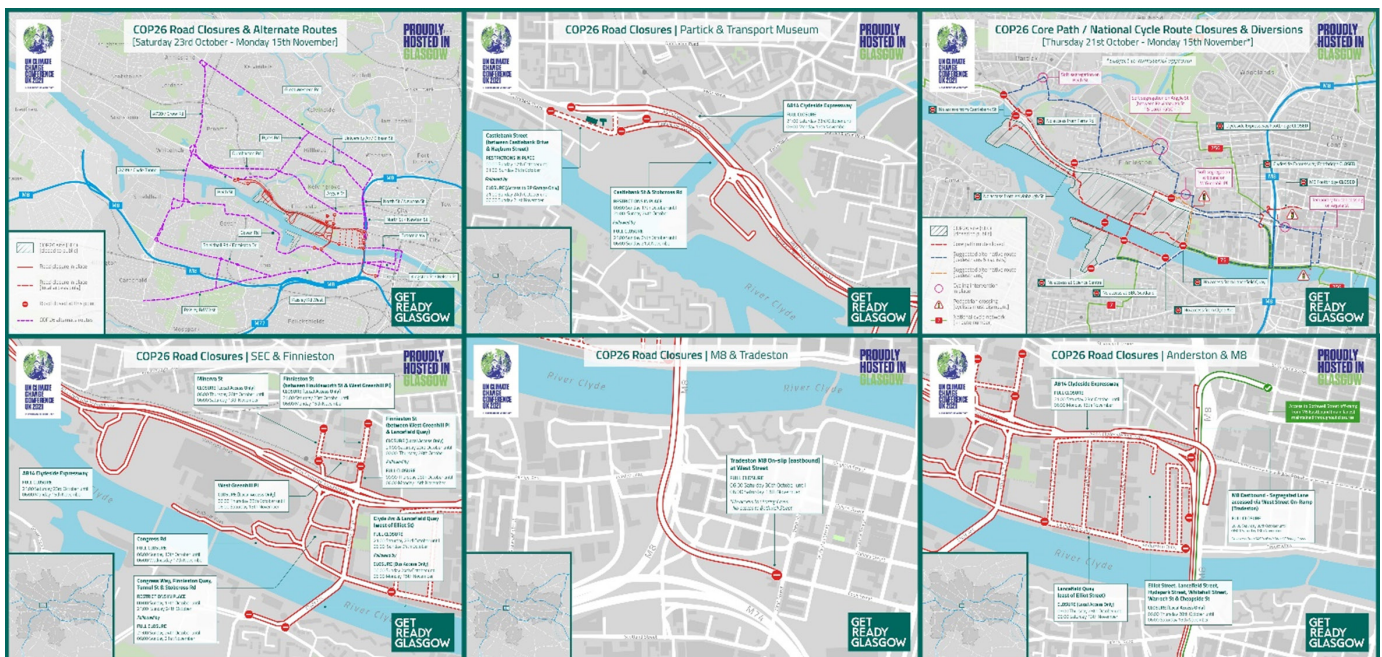


Fig 1: Road Closures and Alternative Routes (GetReadyGlasgow, 2021)

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In addition to the general road closure and alternative route maps provided, GetReadyGlasgow have also provided an indication to how travel may be affected in the run up to COP26, as well as predicted daily impediments, the former can be found below (Fig 2)

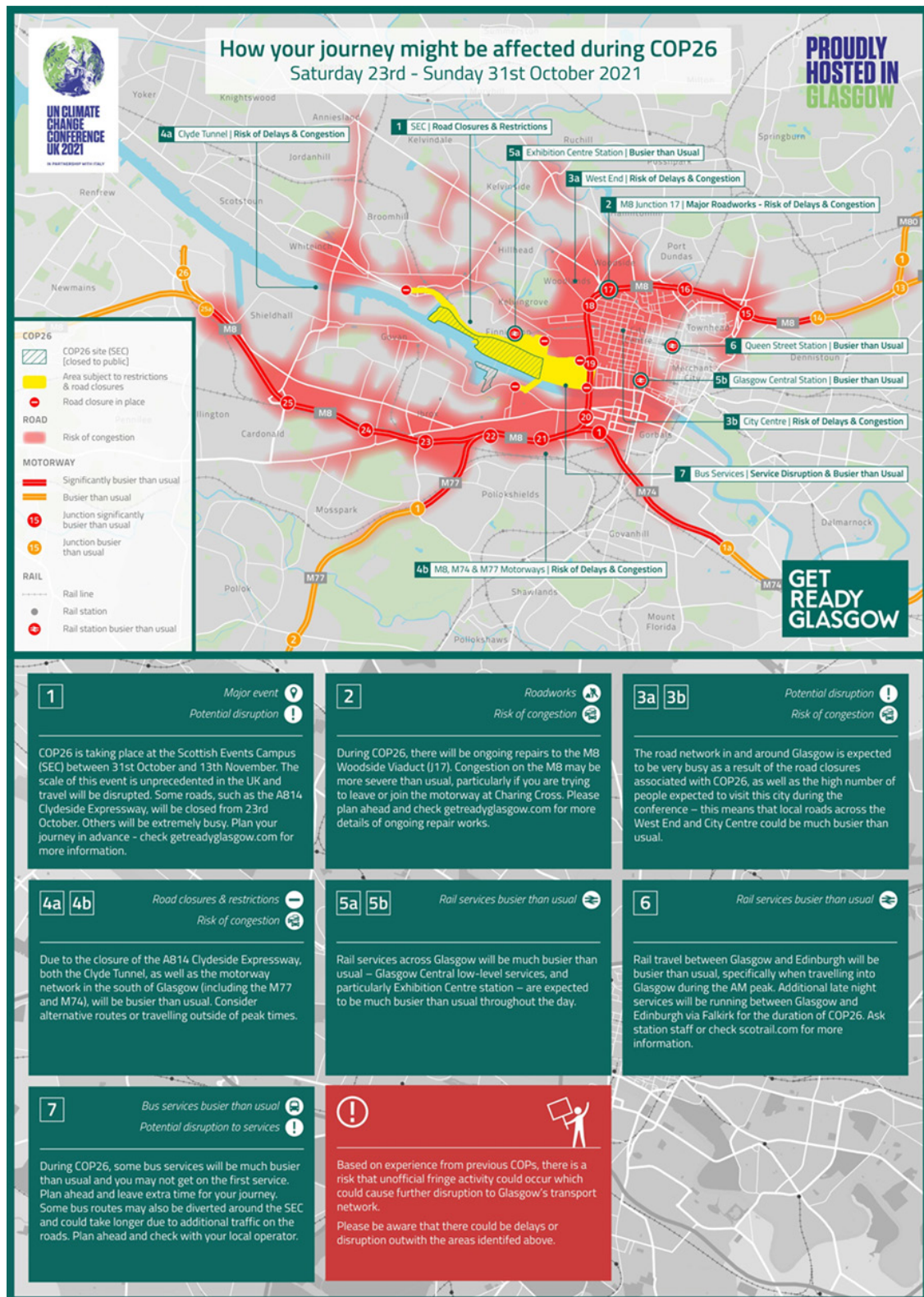


Fig 2: Impact on Journey 23rd-31st October 2021 (GetReadyGlasgow, 2021)

Daily updates on this can be found [here](#), as well as real time updates being provided via the GetReadyGlasgow Twitter account [@GlasgowCC](#).

Predicted Environmental Activism

It is expected that there will be public activism related to the COP26 event and whilst Glasgow will likely be the epicentre of any such activity, it is likely that there will be demonstrations elsewhere in the UK, Europe, and the rest of the World. There are a number of single issue activist groups and affiliated groups that are expected to participate in some form of action during the event, some of which have already stated their intentions clearly, including but not limited to:

- **Extinction Rebellion (XR)** – This covers a wide number of sub-groups that exist under the banner of XR, including XR Scotland, and will likely result in many corresponding XR sponsored events around the UK, Europe, and the World. There will undoubtedly be XR action in a number of capital cities.
- **Insulate Britain** – Whilst Insulate Britain have focussed predominantly on the areas in and around London, given the nature of their message, it is likely that there will be some action that corresponds with the COP26 event. Spokespeople for Insulate Britain have stated they cannot say what they will do around

COP26 however their aim is to “...put something concrete in front of our government.”. There are a number of road closures already planned around Glasgow and Police Scotland’s COP26 commander, Assistant Chief Constable Bernard Higgins, has issued warnings to any individuals considering blocking Kingston Bridge.

- **COP Coalition** – Their website describes them as “The COP26 Coalition is a UK-based civil society coalition of groups and individuals mobilising around climate justice during COP26. Coalition members include environment and development NGOs, trade unions, grassroots community campaigns, faith groups, youth groups, migrant and racial justice networks – to name a few.”. They have stated their intent to travel to Glasgow by rail on Saturday 30th October 2021, as well as participating in the Global Day of Action on Climate Change on 6th November 2021, followed by movements, campaigns and civil society (a number of on line events) between the 7th-10th November 2021. It should also be noted that COP26 have listed the following local group hubs in the UK:

Aberdeenshire	Derry	Ilkely	Oxfordshire
Basildon	Derby	Ipswich	Pembrokeshire
Belfast	Dorset	Kent	Plymouth
Brighton	Dublin	Lancashire & Cumbria	Portsmouth
Bristol	East Lancashire / West Yorkshire	Liverpool	Reading
Cambridgeshire	Eastbourne	Llanidloes	Sheffield
Cardiff	Edinburgh	London	Shropshire
Chesterfield	Enfield & Haringey	Lowestoft	Swansea
Chichester	Exeter	Manchester	Tayside
Cornwall	Glasgow	Norfolk	West Midlands
Coventry	Hackney	North East (of England)	York & District
Cumbria	Harlow	Nottingham	Yorkshire and the Humber

Youth Climate Activists – This group is part of a movement founded by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg. There is a Youth Climate Activist March planned for Friday 5th November 2021 and

Saturday 6th November 2021. The routes for these can be found below (Fig 3).

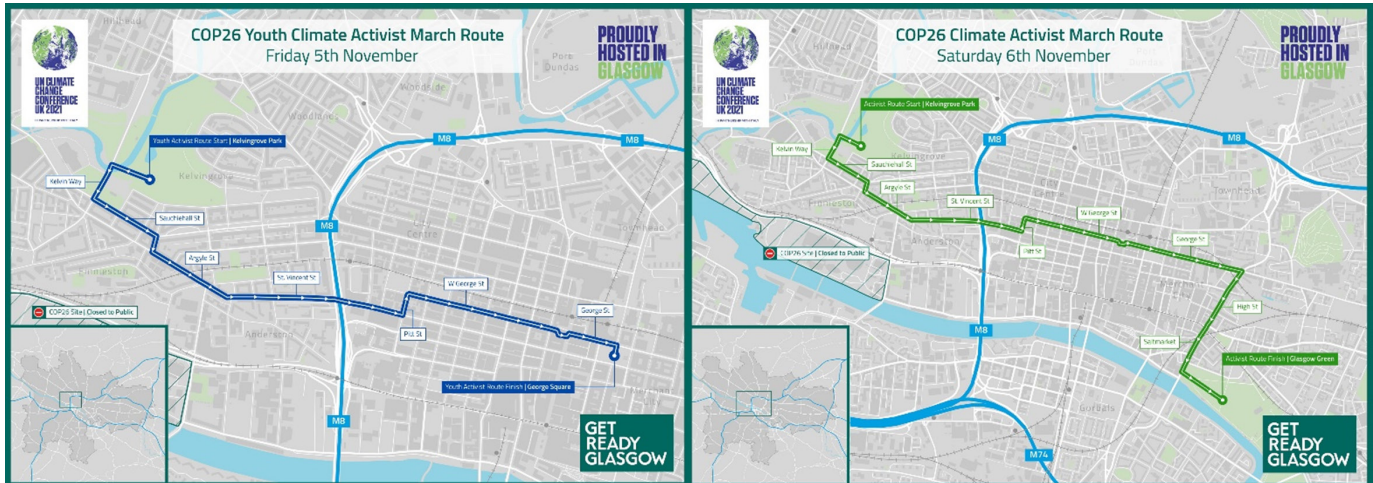


Fig 3: Route for the Youth Climate Activist Marches on 5th/6th November 2021 (GetReadyGlasgow, 2021)

Recent Demonstration Methodology

There have been a number of demonstrations within the UK and internationally by left wing climate activists, and whilst they have been conducted by different groups, there have been some common methodologies shared between them. These include:

- **Occupation** – This tactic is one of the longest standing techniques used by ecological activists, be it the occupation of woodland or, as seen in recent months, the occupation of man-made tunnels near Euston Station. This form of activism may cause disruption to those wishing to use the area, but often seeks to prevent certain activities from being conducted as they would pose an immediate threat to the health/life of the demonstrator if they did (e.g. continue digging when the tunnel is known to be unstable).
- **Adoption of Non-Violent/Passive Protest** – Whilst the demonstrators often seek to position themselves in the most disruptive location, with recent examples such as Insulate Britain and the XR Protest of One epitomising this, the demonstrators are often instructed not to use force in order to prolong their demonstration. This does not mean that they will not return to the position they were in previously if removed and not prevented from doing so, nor that their actions may not cause intimidation to others, only that they generally do not use force against others.
- **Lock On/Glue On** – This tactic has become increasingly popular with certain activist groups and generally requires the responding police force to use tools or solvents to safely remove the individual. The process increases the time it takes to remove the demonstrators, achieving their goal of maximum disruption and exposure in the process.
- **Property Damage** – There are a number of techniques used in this area, including, but not limited to, breaking of windows, throwing of paint (in some instances this is against people), or even some of the Lock On/Glue On techniques used.

Impact on Policing

Assistant Chief Constable Bernard Higgins of Police Scotland has been appointed the Gold Commander for COP26. ACC Higgins joined Strathclyde Police in 1988 and has commanded multiple high profile major public events, both of national and international importance including the Scottish Independence Referendum, The Ryder Cup, and The Open Golf Championships.

Police in Scotland, as well as other major cities including London, will be implementing Project Servator during the two week period of the COP26 event. Project Servator is a policing tactic which aims to disrupt a range of criminal activity, including terrorism, whilst also providing a reassuring physical presence for the public. It is anticipated that approximately 10,000 police officers will be deployed each day during COP26, with many being drafted from forces across Scotland, and supported by colleagues from other police services in the UK. This is an extremely large deployment as it equates to approximately 58% of the total number of serving police in the Scotland, and approximately 6.5% of the total number of serving police in UK Mainland (Commons Library Research Briefing on Police Service Strength, 2021).

There will be a number of specialist units involved in operations over the COP26 event, which will include dog handlers, firearms officers, mounted officers, specialist search teams, and the marine unit. Counter Terrorism Policing and the Intelligence Services will also be involved in the event in various forms.



Known/Planned COP26 Activism/Events

Date/Time	Location	Description
30 th October 2021 1700-1900	Multiple to Glasgow via Train	COP Coalition intend to travel to Glasgow at this time to be present ahead of the COP26 conference
5 th November 1130	Glasgow – See Fig 3 above Kelvingrove Park and finish at George Square	It is reported that approximately 8,000 participants will take part in a protest march in Glasgow from Kelvingrove Park and finish at George Square.
5 th November 1200	Chichester - Chichester College, Westgate Fields PO19 1SB	Chichester Climate Carnival march (1200) plus Climate School and other events.
5 th November 1200	Portsmouth Guildhall, Guildhall Square, PO1 2AB	Meeting at 1200 however it is unknown whether there will be a static demonstration or march.
6 th November TBC	Glasgow – See Fig 3 above Kelvingrove Park to Glasgow Green	It is reported that approximately 50,000 participants will take part in a protest march in Glasgow from Kelvingrove Park to Glasgow Green
6 th November 1200	Portsmouth Guildhall, Guildhall Square, PO1 2AB	Meeting at 1200 however it is unknown whether there will be a static demonstration or march.
6 th November 1200	Birmingham Millennium point, Cardigan Street, B4 7AP	Meeting at 1200 however it is unknown whether there will be a static demonstration or march.
6 th November 1200	Brighton The Level, Union Road, BN1 4SD	Meeting at 1200 however it is unknown whether there will be a static demonstration or march.
6 th November 1200	Bristol College Green, BS1 5TR	A march will be followed by a demonstration at 1500 at College Green
6 th November 1200	Cardiff Town Wall South, CF10 2EW	A march is expected to finish in a demonstration at an unidentified location at approximately 1500
6 th November 1200	Chesterfield Chesterfield Town Hall, Rose Hill, Chesterfield, S40 1LP	A march has been declared in addition to a demonstration at the Town Hall
6 th November 1200	Eastbourne Banker's Corner, Terminus Road, BN21 3LX	A march is expected to take place around the town centre and culminate in a demonstration at 1500 at Wish Tower Slopes
6 th November 1200	Leeds Millennium Square, LS2 3AD	A march is expected to begin at 1300 followed by a demonstration at 1500
6 th November 1200	London Bank of England, Threadneedle Street, EC2R 8AH	A march is expected to take place from the Bank of England and culminate in a demonstration in Trafalgar Square at 1500

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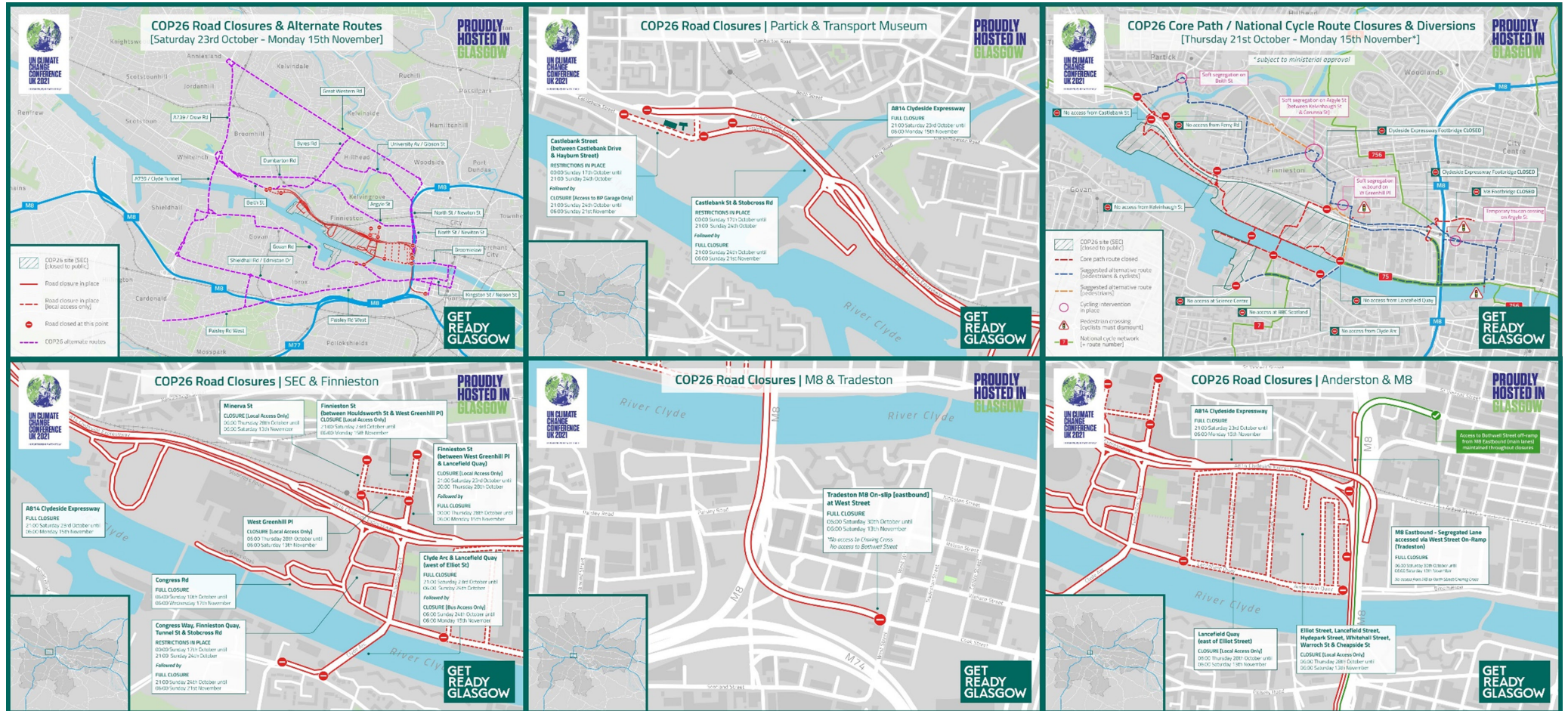
Date/Time	Location	Description
6 th November 1200	Manchester St Peter's Square, M2 3AE	Meeting at 1200 however it is unknown whether there will be a static demonstration or march.
6 th November 1200	Newcastle-upon-Tyne Location unknown (many similar demonstrations have begun/been held at Grey's Monument, 150 Grainger St, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 5AF)	Meeting at 1200 however it is unknown whether there will be a static demonstration or march.
6 th November 1200	Oxford Location TBC	Meeting at 1200 however it is unknown whether there will be a static demonstration or march.
6 th November 1200	Plymouth Plymouth Guildhall Square, Armada Way, PL1 2BJ	Meeting at Plymouth Guildhall Square prior to a march and demonstration. The march is expected to be through the city centre and culminate in live projection of the COP26 conference at 1700
6 th November 1200	Sheffield Devonshire Green, S1 4GT	Marching to City Hall from 1300 for a demonstration planned for 1500
6 th November 1200	Swansea Castle Square, SA1 1DW	Meeting at 1200 however it is unknown whether there will be a static demonstration or march.
6 th November 1200	York Minster Yard, YO17 7JL	Meeting at 1200 however it is unknown whether there will be a static demonstration or march.
6 th November 1300	Nottingham Forest Recreation Ground, NG7 6HB	Meeting at Forest Recreation Ground before marching to the Market Square (via Mansfield Road) at 1400 for a demonstration at 1500
6 th November 1300	Truro Hendra Skate Park, St Georges Road, TR1 3JD	Marching from the Skate Park on an undisclosed route, before reconvening at the Skate Park at 1500 for a demonstration
6 th November 1400	Northampton BBC Radio Broadcasting House, Abington Street, NN1 2BH	Meeting at 1400 however it is unknown whether there will be a static demonstration or march.

Corps Security will monitor events throughout the COP26 period and will be in attendance at daily briefings with CSSC Scotland throughout the duration of the events.

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Fig 1 Expanded





Market House
85 Cowcross St
London
EC1M 6PF



07890 590352
Neil Shanks



intel@corpssecurity.co.uk
www.corpssecurity.co.uk