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This webinar will be recorded.

The video feed and audio for participants is disabled today.
The recording (and slides presented) will made publicly available after the event.

The Q&A box will not be visible on the recording but your name may be included when questions are read out in the Q&A section today.

You may submit questions anonymously in this webinar.



**Behavioural
Research UK**

BR-UK is supported by
the Economic and Social
Research Council
[grant number
ES/Y001044/1]

Understanding the 2024 English riots: Insights into social unrest and racial dynamics

Speakers:

Professor John Drury, University of Sussex

Dr Julze Alejandro, University of Edinburgh

Dr Niamh Hart, University of Edinburgh

Dr Kitty Saunders, University College London

Chaired by Professor Linda Bauld, University of Edinburgh

Key Points



Today's webinar will last approx. 90 minutes.
The chat, audio and video functionality is disabled for today's session.



Please submit your questions via the Q&A box, indicating who your question is for and use the upvote function to highlight relevant questions you would particularly like to see answered today. Please note that questions are visible to all participants.



If you require closed captioning, but cannot see this on your screen automatically, please click the CC box on your zoom menu bar.

Today's Proceedings

Topic	Speaker
Understanding the 2024 English riots: Insights into social unrest and racial dynamics	Professor John Drury, Professor of Social Psychology at the University of Sussex
A case study of the anti-immigration and anti-Islam riot in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent	Dr Julze Alejandro, BR-UK Research Fellow, University of Edinburgh
A case study of the anti-immigration riot at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Tamworth, Staffordshire	Dr Niamh Hart, BR-UK Research Fellow, University of Edinburgh
Case studies of the anti-immigration protests and counter protests in Bristol	Dr Kitty Saunders, BR-UK Senior Policy Fellow, University College London
Findings and implications	Professor John Drury
Questions & Answers	Facilitated by Professor Linda Bauld, BR-UK Director, University of Edinburgh



Professor John Drury

Understanding the 2024 English riots:
Insights into social unrest and 'racial' dynamics



The Hanley Riot

A case study of the anti-immigration and anti-Islam riot in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, England on 3 August 2024

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Outline

- Hanley Town, Stoke-on-Trent
- Desk-Based Data Sources
- Profiles of Individuals Involved
- Phases of the Hanley Riot
- Spatial View and Key Sites
- Points of Significance
- Arrestee Data
- Gaps and Questions

Hanley Town, Stoke-on-Trent

- Attractive place to hold rallies
- Highest proportion of White working class, and unemployed
- Asylum-seeker population
- Far-right leaning
- Hizb Ut-Tahrir



Population

7,900

people

56,490,000 people in England

Rounded to the nearest 100 people

Economic activity status

Etruria and Hanley (England)

Economically active: In employment
53.0% (57.4%)

Economically active: Unemployed
4.9% (3.5%)

Economically inactive 42.1% (39.1%)

% of people aged 16 years and over

Country of birth

Etruria and Hanley (England)

Born in the UK 61.1% (82.6%)

Born outside the UK 38.9% (17.4%)

% of all people

Passports held

Etruria and Hanley (England)

UK passport 60.2% (76.5%)

Non-UK passport 24.0% (10.2%)

No passport held 15.9% (13.2%)

% of all people

Length of residence in the UK

Etruria and Hanley (England)

Born in the UK 61.1% (82.6%)

10 years or more 17.0% (10.1%)

5 years or more, but less than 10 years
7.8% (3.0%)

2 years or more, but less than 5 years
7.7% (2.3%)

Less than 2 years 6.4% (1.9%)

% of all people

Ethnic group

Etruria and Hanley (England)

Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh
37.1% (9.6%)

Black, Black British, Black Welsh,
Caribbean or African 6.1% (4.2%)

Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups
4.6% (3.0%)

White 46.9% (81.0%)

Other ethnic group 5.3% (2.2%)

% of all people

Religion

Etruria and Hanley (England)

No religion 20.5% (36.7%)

Christian 31.4% (46.3%)

Buddhist 0.2% (0.5%)

Hindu 0.8% (1.8%)

Jewish 0.1% (0.5%)

Muslim 40.4% (6.7%)

Sikh 0.3% (0.9%)

Other religion 0.5% (0.6%)

Not answered 5.9% (6.0%)

% of all people

National identity

Etruria and Hanley (England)

One or more UK identity only
72.1% (88.0%)

UK identity and non-UK identity
2.8% (2.0%)

Non-UK identity only 25.1% (10.0%)

% of all people



Hanley Town, Stoke-on-Trent



The EDL clashed with police as anti-Muslim protest turned violent, 2010; Source: [EDL Stoke](#)

City leaders strongly object to plans to use hotel for asylum seekers, and call on other parts of the UK to match its support



Published: Thursday, 6th October 2022

City leaders strongly object to plans to use hotel for asylum seekers, and call on other parts of the UK to match its support

City leaders have strongly objected to the Home Office using a prominent hotel to house asylum seekers.

The warning comes as Stoke-on-Trent is already sensitively supporting around 920 families and single people – more than many other areas across the UK – and has helped many thousands of people since being designated an asylum dispersal area in the 1990s.

Now city leaders are telling the government department that it must find locations in others areas of the country instead of making arrangements to bypass the city council and house asylum seekers at the privately-operated North Stafford Hotel, immediately opposite Stoke Station – a major gateway into the city.

Related items

[Forms](#)

[Documents](#)

[Departments](#)

[Policies, procedures and strategies directory](#)

Source: [City leaders' objection to the use of hotels for asylum seekers](#)

Desk-Based Data Sources (n=144 records)



Profile of Individuals Involved in the Hanley Riot



Football risk groups, other far-right groups and individuals (n=~400)



Online far-right promoters



Masked men in black ('Community defenders'/'Asian males') (n=~100)



Counter-protesters: NorSCARF, SUTR (n=~70)



Public order-trained police (n=~60)



Members of public (e.g. school children, n=~300)



Phases of the Hanley Riot



Phase 2

Assembly, 9:00–11:30



Phase 4

Attacks on mosques, 13:00–18:00

Phase 1

Mobilisation, 72 hours before
the event



Phase 3

Movement, 11:30–13:00



Phase 5

Dispersal, 18:00



Spatial View and Key Sites

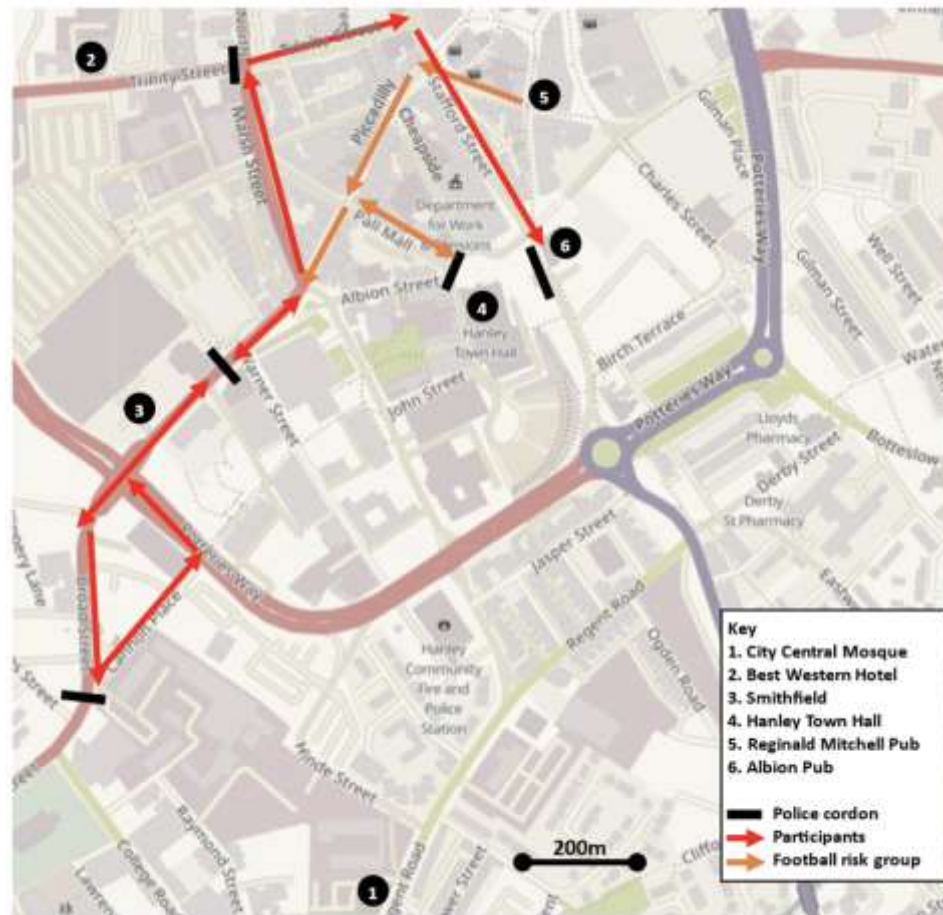


Figure 1. Centre of Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, showing routes of marches (Source: OpenStreetMap)

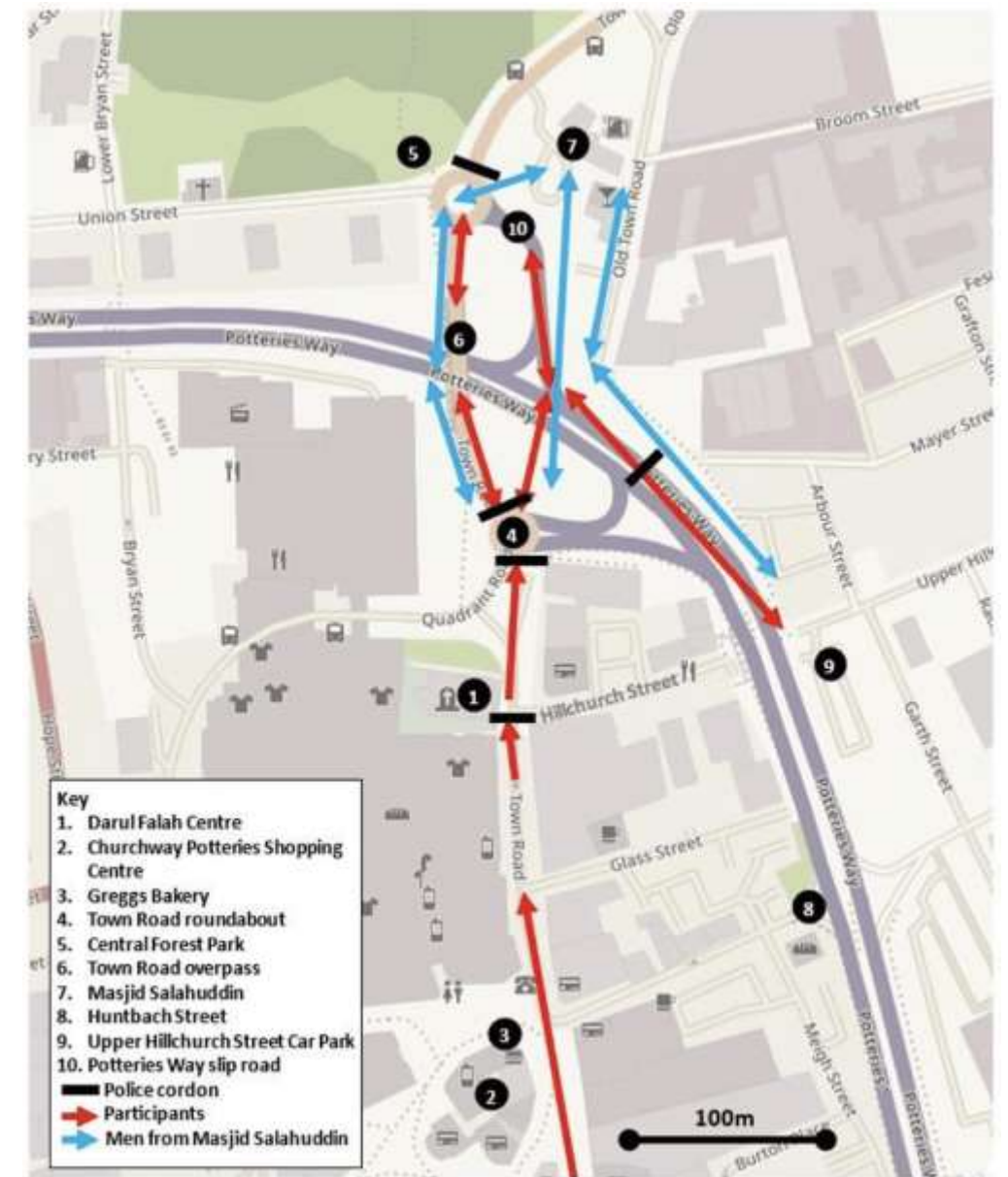


Figure 2. Hanley town centre showing Darul Falah Centre and Salahuddin Mosque (Source: OpenStreetMap)

Phases of the Hanley Riot

- **Phase 1: Mobilisation, 72 hrs before**
 - Rumours circulated in social media of a potential Southport-related protest in Stoke
 - Staffordshire Police received intelligence on 1 August 2024 about a potential protest on 3 August 2024, 11:30am, under the banner 'Enough is Enough', shared and gaining momentum in Facebook
 - Staffordshire Police made risk-based decision by placing majority of the operational front-line officers on 12-hr shift
 - Reconnaissance on 2 August 2024
 - Activation of the 'partner engagement' plan with Stoke City Council and other potential target organisations
 - Video: 'Advice Regarding the EDL Protest in Hanley'
 - Deployed 60 public order trained police officers

Stoke-on-Trent Live
3 August 2024

Hanley is reported to be one of many locations planned for far-right protests today



STOKESENTINEL.CO.UK

Stoke-on-Trent prepares for possible unrest as far-right protests reported

Phases of the Hanley Riot

• Phase 2: Assembly, 9:00-11:30

- Police liaison team (PLTs) officers were deployed across the town to warn the public and private businesses about the 'protest'
- Members of football risk groups met at Wetherspoon (9:00)
- Around 70 counter-protesters, members of NorSCARF and Stand Up to Racism group organised near Hanley Town Hall (10:00-11:00)
- 100 anti-immigrant participants left Wetherspoons and walked to Smithfield Centre, escorted by PLTs
- Anti-immigrant participants attempted to charge counter-protesters
- Around 400 protesters started to build up at Smithfield Centre along Broad Street (11:30)
- White, largely male and middle-aged crowd carrying or were draped in flags of St George, the Knights of Templar, Union Jacks, Israeli flags, and England football flags



Phases of the Hanley Riot

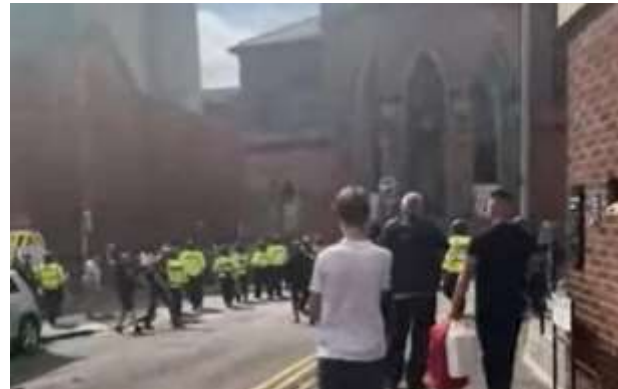
- **Phase 3: Movement, 11:30-13:00**
 - Anti-immigrant participants head to Shelton (predominantly Asian community) – blocked by police cordon (11:45)
 - Anti-immigrant participants marched from Smithfield Centre, down to Broad Street, then to Marsh Street and Trinity Street near the contingency hotel for asylum seekers – cordoned by police
 - Marched continued down to Stafford Street, stopping near Albion pub; ~50m from Town Hall (13:00) – cordoned by police
 - Standoff between the anti-immigrant participants and counter-protesters



Phases of the Hanley Riot

- **Phase 4: Attacks on mosques, 13:00-18:00**
 - Breakaway group from the anti-immigrant crowd headed to Darul Falah Centre clashed with community defenders of about 50 black-hooded and young unarmed men of South Asian and African decent (~13:30)
 - Misinformation on alleged 'stabbing' near Darul Falah Centre was circulated offline and in social media (13:45)

"There were reports of potentially somebody being stabbed, which I think was retweeted elsewhere...the chatter when through the group [of protesters]...so that dispersed quickly and then went into disorder on the outskirts of Hanley Town Road, Potteries Way, ring road, near the Salahuddin mosque." –Police Officer
 - Counter-protesters packed up and left the Town Hall (14:30)



Phases of the Hanley Riot

- **Phase 4: Attacks on mosques, 13:00-18:00**

- Clash between anti-immigrant participants and Asian males at Masjid Salahuddin (15:00)

"It became a stand-off...you've got almost like a valley with a big main road running between it. You've got the mosque with a large Asian community and on the other bank you've got your White community. It was a chaotic scene. Individuals running between cars, bricks coming over from one side, bricks coming over from the other, trip rails that had been ripped up that were like short scaffold bars being used." –Police Officer

- Tactic of 'containment' discussed with the Imam; cooperation between police officers and community defenders at Masjid Salahuddin
- Police liaison telling 'Muslims' to discard weapons at mosque



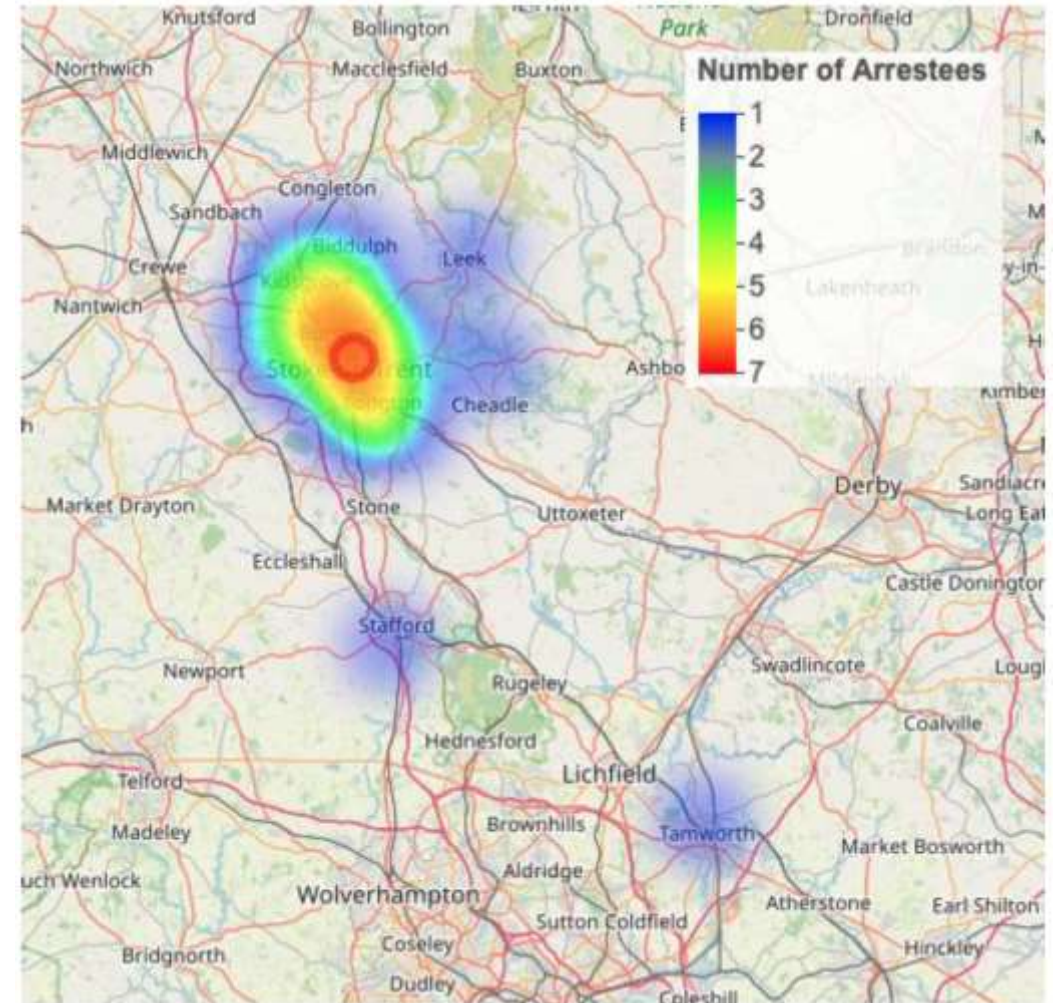
Phases of the Hanley Riot

- **Phase 5: Dispersal, 18:00**

- Cycles of clashing, dispersing, and regrouping (~3 hrs)
- Dispersal order – football risk group left to go watch the football match
- Anti-immigrant group, supporters, and bystander interest dropped (16:30-17:00)
- ‘Community defenders’ were contained at the mosque car park
- Police dispersed people who may return to the site
- Some were roaming the city centre – low risk
- Police scaled down their operation (18:00-19:00)
- Couple of arrests on the day

Arrestee data

- 94 arrestees
- Almost all arrested for offences of violence (violent disorder, riot, assault, etc.)
- Vast majority were detained after the event, 22% case closed without charge
- The mean age was 31 years, the media was 31 years, range between 13 and 67 years
- Occupation: manual jobs (42%), unemployed (40%), students (16%), professionals (2%)
- 93% were previously arrested for crimes of violence
- Mean (home) distance of the arrestees from Hanley 3.1 miles, median is 2.3 miles; the farthest arrestee travelled ~33 miles
- Three quarters (76%) of arrestees who took part in the Hanley event were resident of Stoke-on-Trent



Heat map of residences of arrestees (N=90) from the Hanley 'riot' by four-digit post-code (Source: OpenStreetMap).

Points of Significance

- Selective targeting by protesters tells us about their ideology
- The limits to their actions tells us about what they thought was legitimate
- Safety risks of mass ethnic labelling (e.g. Muslims to describe people of colour; Asians collectively referring to Muslims, use of 'Asian males/youth' as a shorthand)
- Stigmatisation of the Muslim population and other ethnic groups (e.g. Asian)
- Disruption of local businesses and public services (transportation, healthcare, small shops)
- Trauma among members of the public, especially children
- Reinforcing division by demonising groups rather than violent behaviours
- What drove people these violent ideologies: mis/disinformation, deprivation, inequality, poverty, lack of opportunities



Teen Muslims say they fear for safety over riots



Azaan and Ibrahim say they fear they cannot go out alone anymore due to the ongoing riots

Children terrified as theatre locked-down for protest



Children as young as six were caught up in the lockdown at the Regent Theatre

Gaps and Questions

- Undocumented gaps and missing information in the timeline – need to get interview non-participants from minoritised ethnicities, asylum seekers, refugees, people who took part in counter-protests
- More information on the counter-protest on Saturday, 10 August in Stoke-on-Trent
- Social media posts verification (i.e. timestamps vs real time)
- Profile of anti-immigrant protesters, 'Asian community', counter-protesters
- Connection of protesters to far-right groups
- Social media posts from influential personalities and its influence on rioters' movements and behaviours



The Tamworth Riot

A case study of the anti-immigration riot at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Tamworth, Staffordshire, England, on 4 August 2024



Dr Niamh Hart, Research Fellow (nhart@ed.ac.uk)
Behavioural Research UK Leadership Hub
The University of Edinburgh

Dr Roger Ball, Research Fellow
University of the West of England

Outline

- Sources
- About Tamworth
- Precipitating Factors and Building Tension
- Location of the Hotel
- Phases of the Event
- Arrestee Data
- Final Points

Desk-Based Data Sources



Social media posts
(n=9)



News websites and blogs
(n=23)



Photo sources
(n=3)



Videos
(n=17)



Reports
(n=15)

Additional Sources



**CP and EW
transcripts**
(n=8)



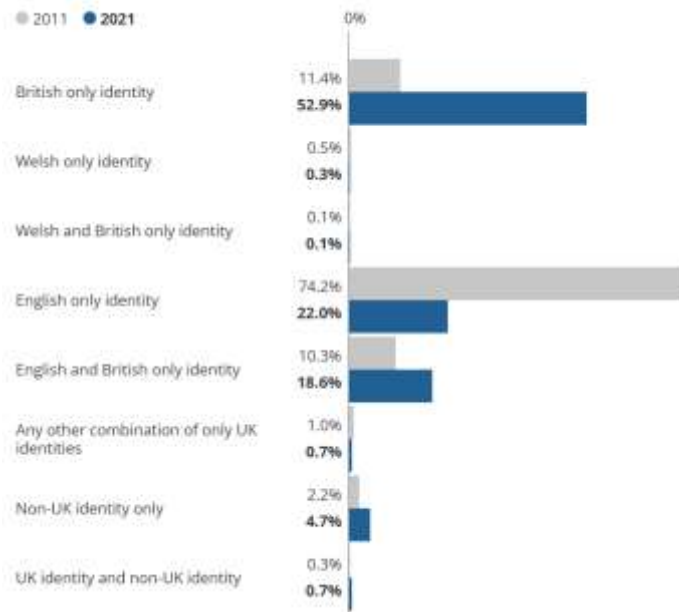
**Police
transcripts**
(n=5)

**Arrestee
Data**
(n=72)

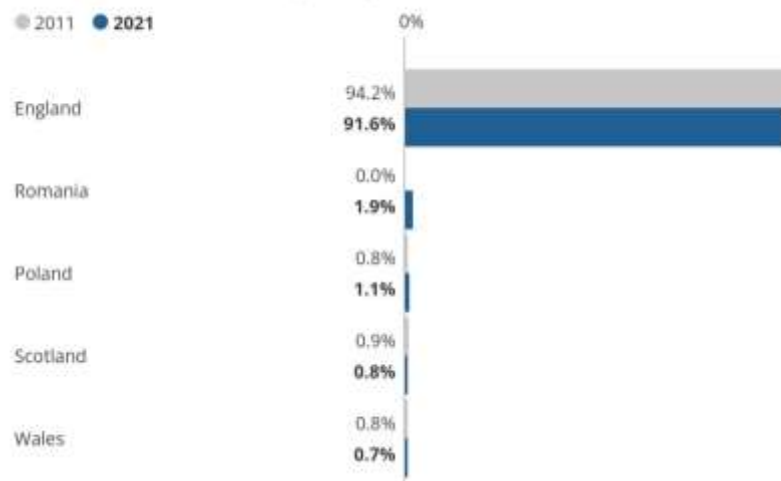
Tamworth, Staffordshire

- Population: Around 79,000

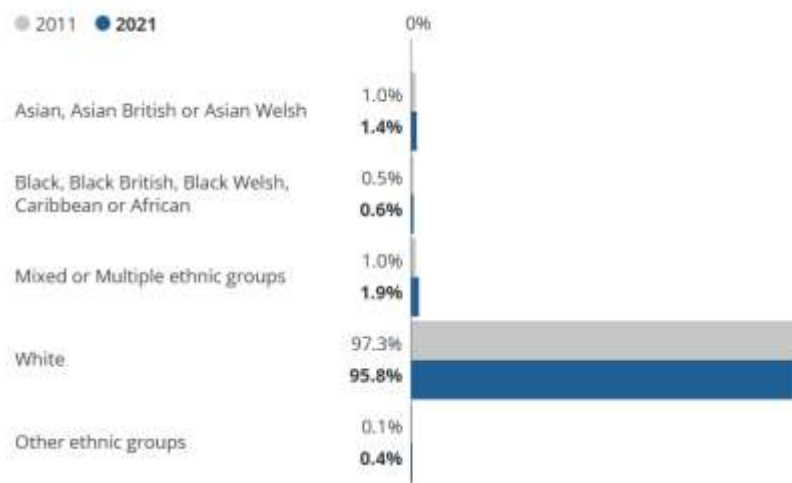
Percentage of usual residents by national identity, Tamworth



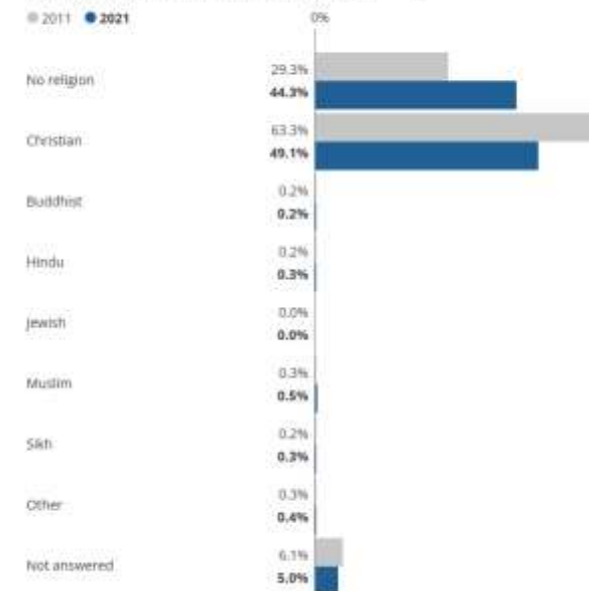
Percentage of usual residents by country of birth, Tamworth



Percentage of usual residents by ethnic group, Tamworth



Percentage of usual residents by religion, Tamworth



Precipitating Factors and Building Tension in Tamworth

Cllr Robert Pritchard 1 August 2022 · 🌐

🚨 Asylum Seekers at SnowDome Hotel Update 🚨

🏨 **Holiday Inn** is seeking to place 230 single male asylum seekers in the Tamworth town centre Holiday Inn Express (next to the **SnowDome**) from the first week of September on an indefinite basis. These Asylum Seekers are the individuals who cross the English Channel in boats.

🛑 We all want to help those in need, but other hotel sites should be used first. This will have a huge and negative impact on our town centre and visitor economy.

🎪 Tamworth is to host numerous outdoor events over the year, including concerts, family sports events, fireworks displays, and a Commonwealth Games live site. This is on top of being home to many tourist attractions like Snow Dome and Tamworth Castle.


🏠 It is essential that now, and going forward, Tamworth has sufficient hotel space for visitors and families coming to our wonderful town.

🏡 Tamworth is a town working to build its visitor economy and its appeal as a destination for visitors.

📍 This move by **Holiday Inn Express** goes against that aim and will damage Tamworth's economy.

✍️ Please sign the petition and show your opposition to this move. Other sites that are not so important to our town centre economy should be used.

You can sign the petition here - <https://www.change.org/.../tamworth-holiday-inn-is-an->



Tamworth Holiday Inn is unsuitable for Asylum Seekers



Started
Petition to

1 July 2022
[home office](#)

3,851
Signatures

5,000
Next Goal

Support now

Sign this petition

Spotted Tamworth · Follow
30 June · 🌐

⚠️ WARNING ALL FEMALES ⚠️

A warning to all Tamworth residents and parents! My 15 year old daughter and her friend were walking to Ventura by the Snowdome Saturday afternoon at 4.30pm.

They were approached, cat called and propositioned by a group of adult males who would not leave them alone.

They were then followed and told the group they were only 15 and to leave. They did not and the harassment continued, they were both so scared they rushed into the Snowdome car park.

I want to say a huge thank you to the kind family that saw their distress whilst returning to their car and helped them. The father making it clear to the group they needed to leave. Please do get in touch, as we would like to thank you personally and also discuss the incident.

Photos attached below, if anyone knows the offenders please name them!

Please be aware that the town really is not as safe anymore, this incident has been reported to the police.

What is going on in our town, the council & police need to get to grips with this before something serious happens, it is understood a serious assault / rape happened very recently!



17th July
2024



SARAH EDWARDS

Jane Terry iv just added a page please follow it Tamworth pull together and make a stand

15w · Like · Reply · Edited

Reply to Jane Terry

Nick Massey Cross
Paris Hugo 100% a march needs to be set up protesting through the town and ending at that asylum hotel. The rest of the country is in the same predicament as Tamworth, full to the rafters with men in their 20's/30's and I think protesting would/ could possibly gain ground in other areas via social media. Enough is enough, the government who work for us need to do what they're entrusted to do & finally protect its people. The government's quite happy to go & over throw leaders in other countries, as they say to "protect" those people, then all those angry men come over from those worn torn countries & cause havoc here. About time the government stepped up & listened.

15w · Like · Reply

Precipitating Factors and Building Tension in Tamworth

Debunking Tamworth article outlining the planned protest on the 4th Aug 2024

- Included online screenshots

(<https://debunkingtamworth.com/2024/08/racist-protest-set-to-arrive-in-tamworth-tonight/>)



Tamworth pull together and make a stand

102 likes • 204 followers

I made this page to get Tamworth to pull together and get Illegal immigrants out of our town

5 likes • 1 share

Like Comment Send Share

Tamworth pull together and make a stand
5 Jul · 🌐

OW REFORM NEVER MADE IT ...ITS GOING TO GET /ORSE WHATS TAMWORTH THOURGHTS /HATS NEXT
OW CAN WE GET TOGETHER AND MAKE THE

Holly Evans
To right ✅ let's say get them out keep our kids safe and our community 🙏 there everywhere we need to make our town safe again
3w Like Reply 2 🌐

Author
Tamworth pull together and make a stand
[Holly Evans](#) even more so now labour are back in Tamworth 😊
3w Like Reply

Write a reply...

Mandi Cook
Get them out!!!
3w Like Reply 2 🌐

Author
Tamworth pull together and make a stand
[Mandi Cook](#) 1000%
3w Like Reply

Write a reply...

< Tamworth pull together and make a stand
4 Jul · 🌐

Aprile Melding
It's about time we all got together in Tamworth & protest outside the holiday inn, this is way past a joke now, we don't want them in Tamworth it's only a small

Janet Carter
[Aprile Melding](#) well said we need to do something x
3w Like Reply 2 🌐

Louise March
They shouldn't even be in there
The goverment moan about costs yet they paying for all this not just here but across the country the money could be spent else where
3w Like Reply 1 🌐

Write a reply...

Author
Tamworth pull together and make a stand
[Louise March](#) I totally agree

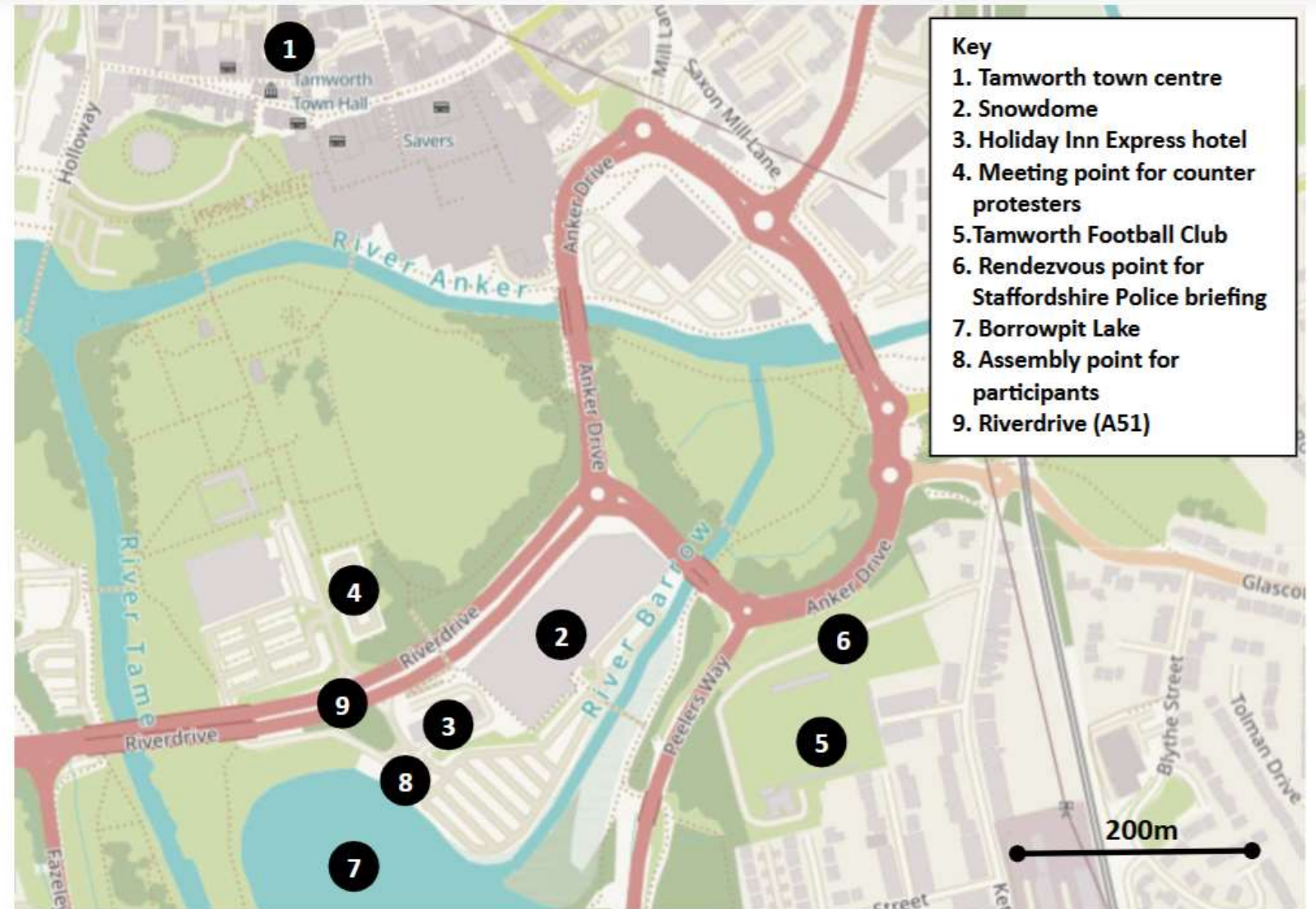
Write a reply...

< Tamworth pull together and make a stand
4 Jul · 🌐

THE PAGE IS ONLY A FEW DAYS OLD AND ALREADY SEEING PEOPLE FOLLOWING JUST WANT TO SAY THANKYOU ❤️ THE MORE SUPPORT THE MORE WE CAN MAKE A CHANGE TOGETHER TO GET

South Tamworth showing location of Holiday Inn Express contingency accommodation

(Source: OpenStreetMap)



Phases of the Tamworth Riot

- Phase 1: Preparations
- Phase 2: Assembly of 'peaceful protest'
- Phase 3: 'Instantaneous' violence
- Phase 4: Fire ignited in the hotel
- Phase 5: Additional police support arrives
- Phase 6: Event terminated

Phase 1: Preparations

- **30 June:** *Spotted Tamworth post and Tamworth pull together and make a stand* FB group formed – calls for protest at Holiday Inn
- **July:** Meeting – Home Office, Staffordshire (Staffs) Police, SERCO
- **29-30 July:** Southport murders and riot
- **1 August:** Meeting - Home Office, SP, SERCO
- **1 August:** Staffs Police alter shifts to prepare for PO trained officer requirement
- **3 August 11:00-16:00:** Protests and violence in Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent (Shelton, contingency accommodation, counter-protesters, mosques)
- **3 August 18:30:** Information about protest in Tamworth arrives with Staffs Police, intelligence development attempted
- **4 August am:** Two PSUs deployed to Tamworth plus a dog serial, a drone team, some intelligence officers and a PLT
- **4 August pm:** Silver and Bronze SP commanders reconnoitre Holiday Inn and meet Security Manager



Phases 2 & 3

Phase 1: 'Peaceful Protest'

- 17:00** 2 PSUs meet with Bronze and Silver at Tamworth FC car park for briefing
- 18:00** PLT deployed at the hotel followed by PSUs
- 18:30** Protesters 50-100, plus 10-15 counter-protesters. Reaction to PLT negative
- 19:00** Police receive reports of 'at risk' football fans on route to hotel
- 19:20** 250 protesters present, including 10 family groups and recently arrived Tamworth FC risk groups, some masked



Phase 2: Activation of 'instantaneous' violence

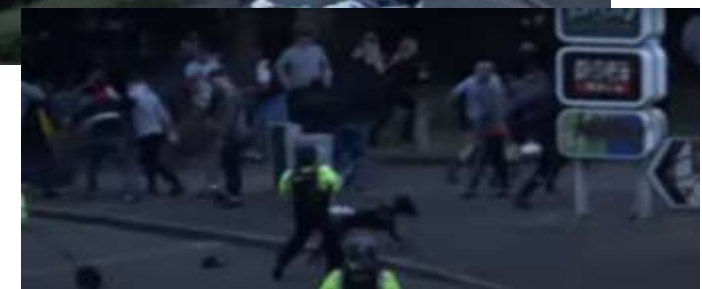
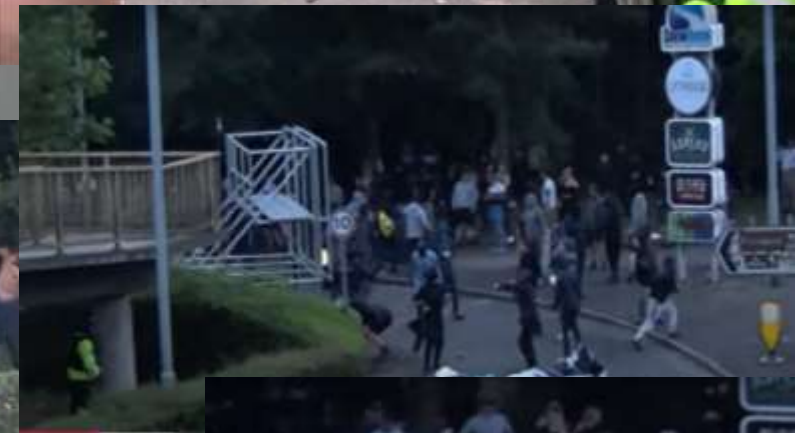
- 19:26** Man with megaphone encourages protesters to advance, violence was almost 'instantaneous'. Half of the crowd react. Police form protective line outside hotel entrance
- 19:46** Missiles, fireworks and flares thrown at police line and CPs. PAVA spray and batons used by police and police drone in attendance
- 20:00** Counter-protesters decide to leave after advice from police
- 20:12** PSU serials in Code 1 dress and continuing to hold the perimeter at the front of the hotel



Phase 3



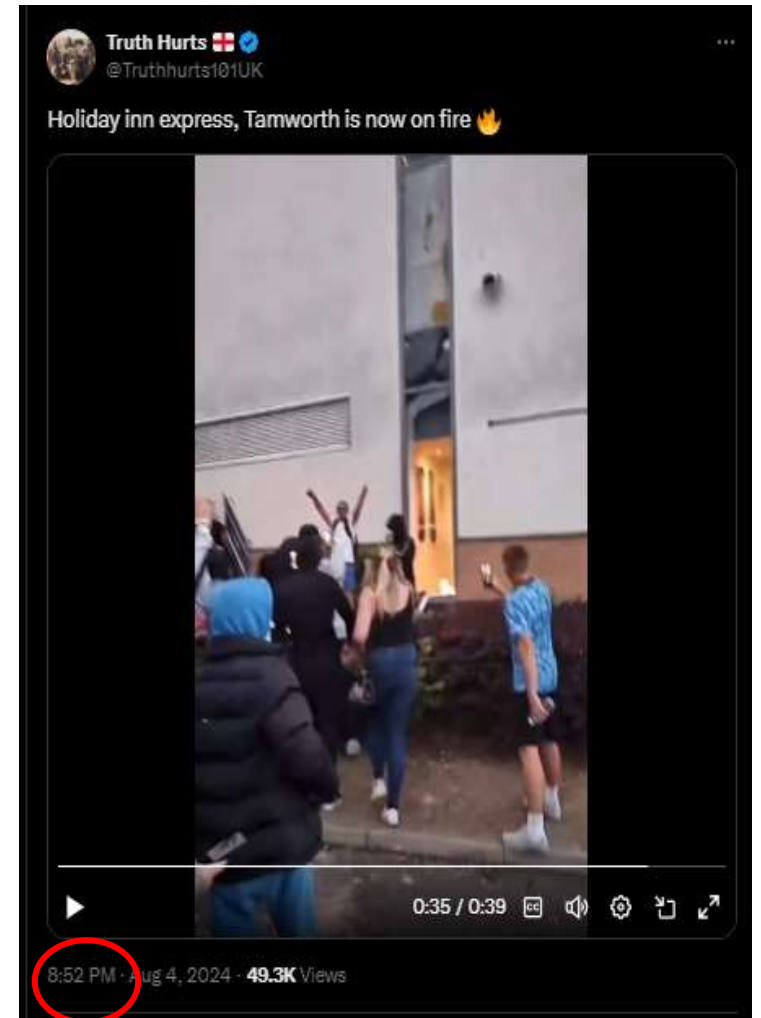
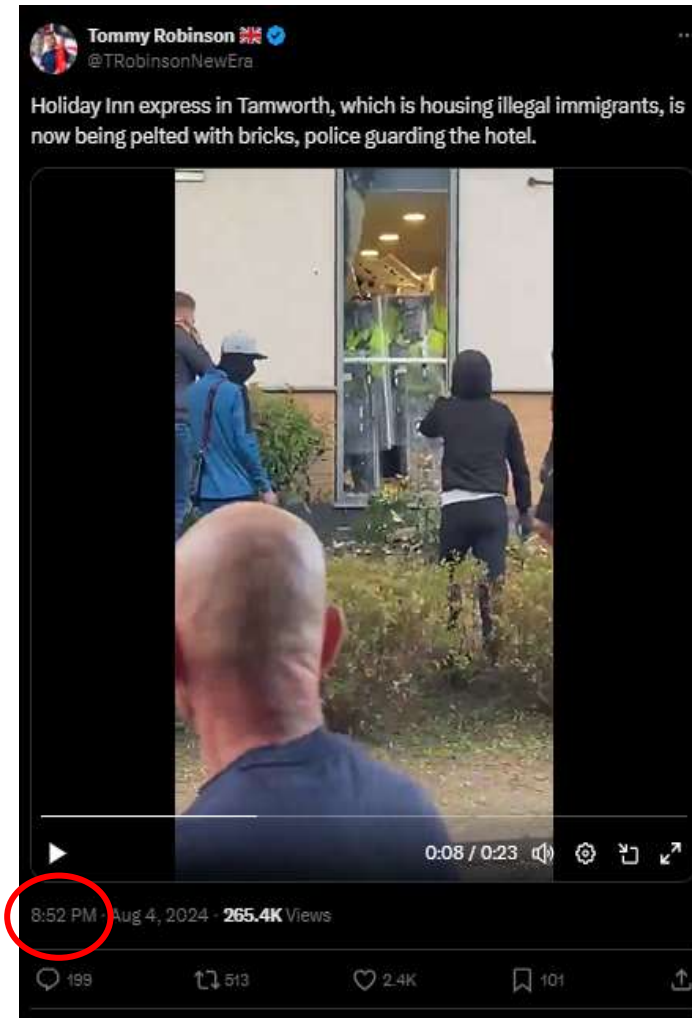
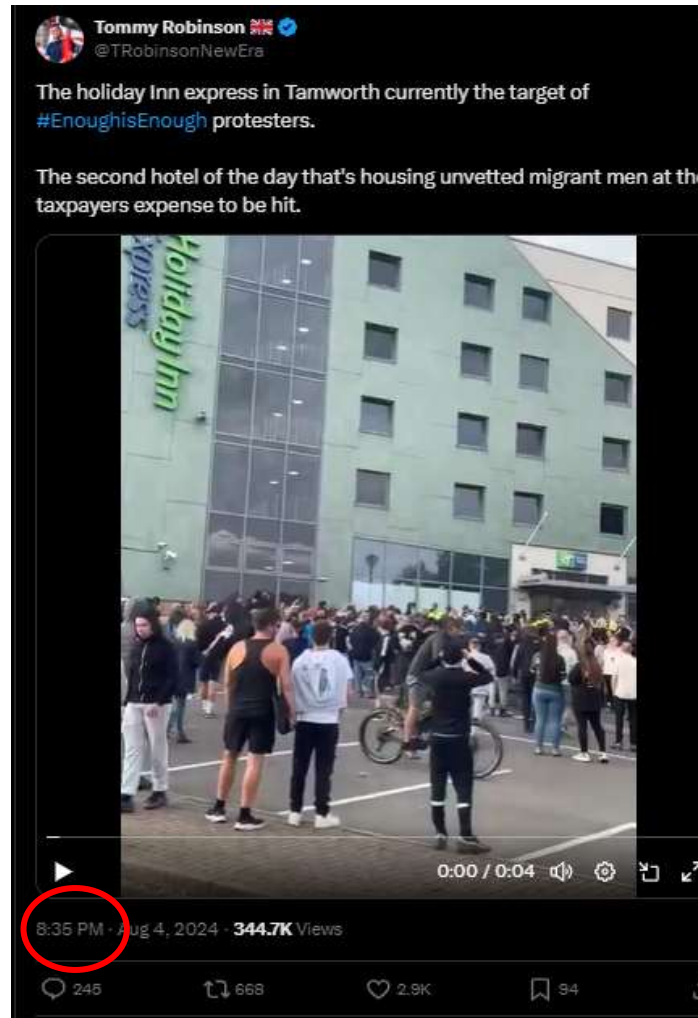
20:21 Police issue statement on X regarding event



Phase 3



Phase 3 – 4: Fire(s) ignited in hotel: 20:30–22:00

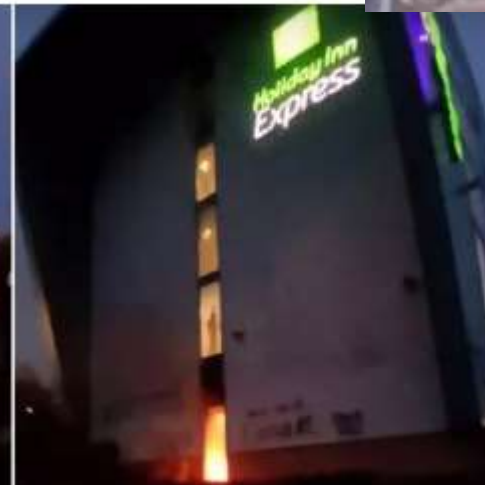


Phase 4: Fire(s) ignited in hotel: 20:30-22:00



Public urged to avoid Holiday Inn, Tamworth following violence

News
@ Public (21:40) 09/09/2024
We've advised members of the public to avoid the area around the Holiday Inn, Tamworth, as



Phases 5 – Additional Police Support Arrive

20:50 Some of the crowd on Riverside (A51), throwing missiles at police
Police helicopter deployed

By 22:00 Two PSUs arrive (one from Staffordshire, one from Rotherham)
Dispersal tactics now possible and employed

Majority of dispersal tactics footage shown on the surrounding A51

22:12 Tweet: “*#BREAKING: Police have now completely SURROUNDED the rioters in Tamworth after they attempted to BURN DOWN a Holiday Inn Hotel!*”

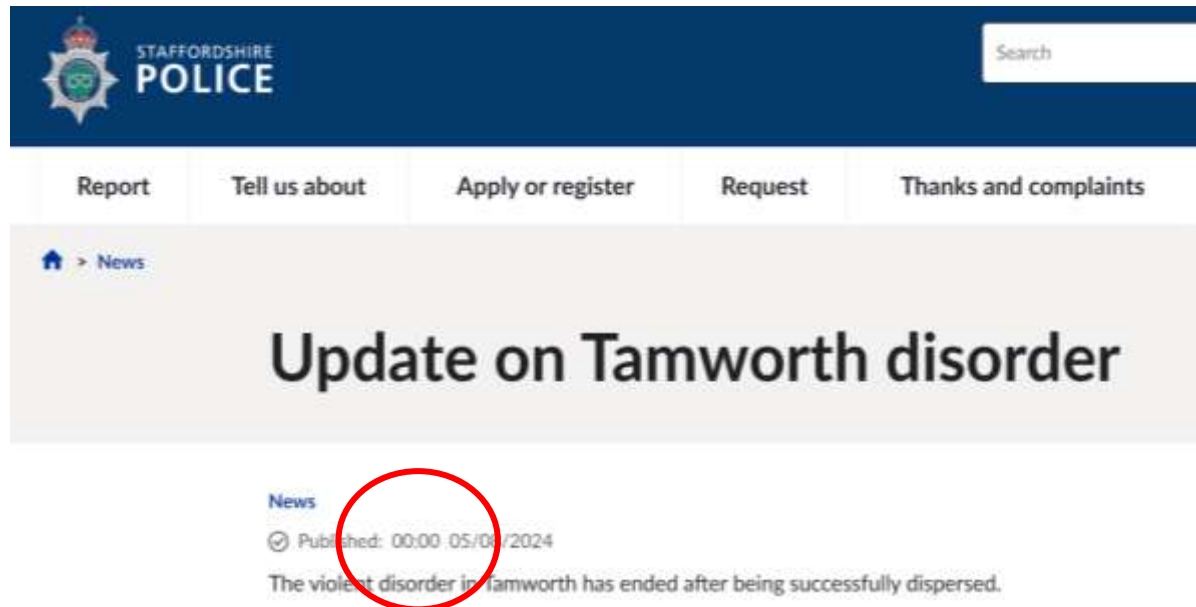
Footage shows cars speeding away and crowds dispersing into wooded areas surrounding A51



Phases 6 – Event Terminated

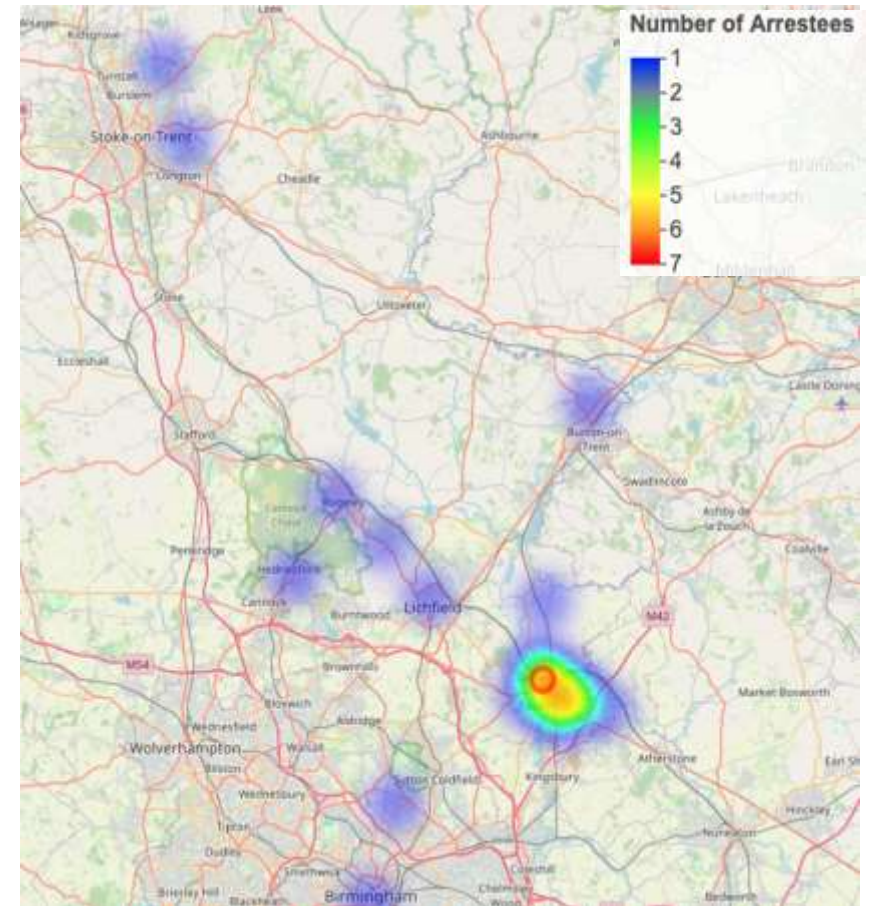
Police interview data: *“And it all fizzled out then by about midnight.”*

00:00 Interview data confirmed by Staffordshire Police statement



Arrestee data – Tamworth event

- 72 arrestees
- Almost all arrested for offences of violence (violent disorder, riot, assault etc)
- Vast majority were detained after the event, 22% case closed without charge
- **Mean age:** ~31 years, the median ~28 years and the age range 13 to 60 years. One fifth, 14 (19 %) of those arrested were <18 years of age.
- **Occupation:** manual jobs (44%), unemployed (35%), students (13%), professionals (7%), retired (1%)
- **Previous contacts with police:** mean 6, 93% had previous for crimes of violence
- **Travel from home location:** mean distance was 3.5 miles, median 1.6 miles and the farthest any arrestee travelled was ~35 miles
- Three quarters (81%) of arrestees who took part in the Tamworth event were residents in the Tamworth Area



Final points

- Varied communications of the planned 'protest'
- An attack, rather than a 'peaceful protest'
- Lower attendance of counter-protestors than the other case studies

Missing information:

- Tamworth was not as well documented as some of the other case studies
- The key Facebook group with the planning information was deleted before data collection
- Interview data suggests that much of the documented footage was live on platforms such as Tik Tok and, therefore not saved



Bristol Events: 3rd and 7th August 2024

Case studies of the anti-immigration protests and counter protests in Bristol



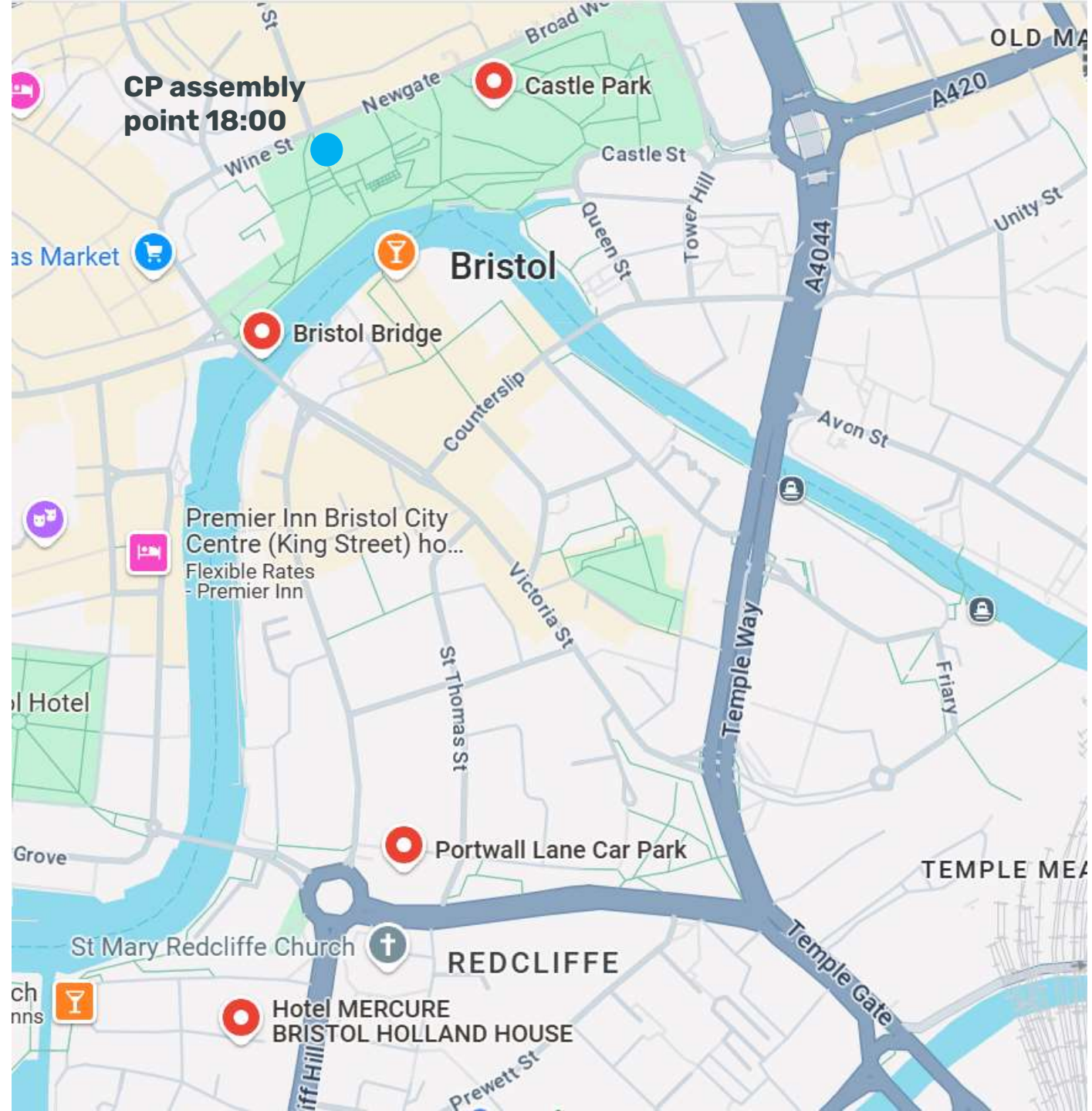
Dr Kitty Saunders
Senior Policy Fellow
BR-UK, University College London

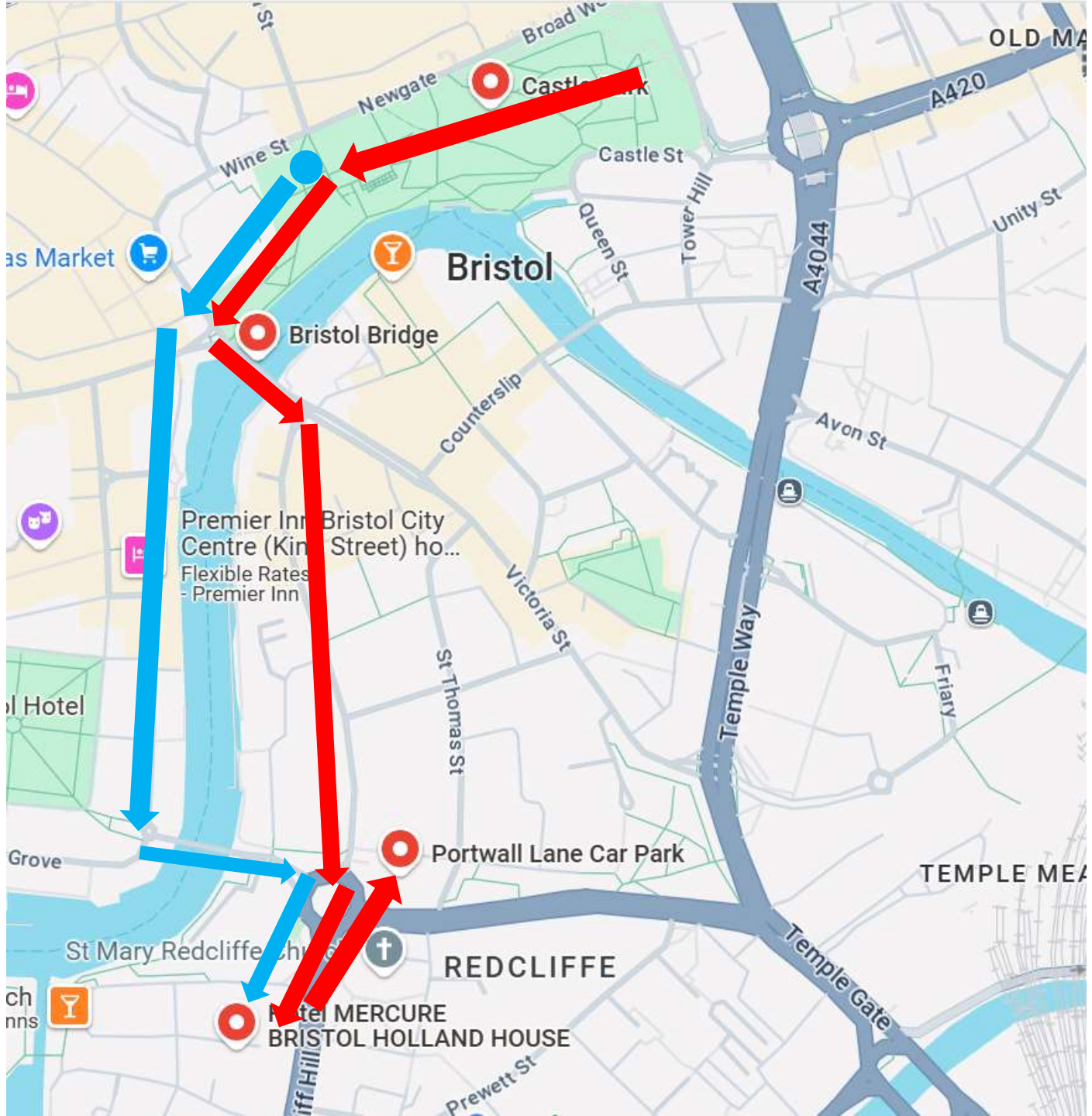


Behavioural
Research UK

Bristol Event 3rd August

A case study of the protest and counter-protest in Bristol on
Saturday 3 August 2024





Build up to event from 29th July ~18.10 3rd August



Circulated on social media
on 2nd August



Circulated on Twitter/X on
3rd August

Police planning and deployment

- **Thursday 1 August**

- Avon & Somerset receive intelligence that a 'brand new youth right-wing group' were behind the protest at Castle Park at 19:00 Saturday 3 August – held a **planning meeting**

- **Friday 2 August**

- E-flyer expanded the protest in Castle Park to a '20 minute' march to Redcliffe Hill and a demonstration – **planning meeting**
- **Section 60, 60AA and 35** dispersal zone in place midday on 3 Aug until 06:00 on 4 Aug
- **Mutual aid Police Support Units (PSU)**, 'planned' and 'contingent' – from Wiltshire, Dorset, Devon & Cornwall and Kent. Plus 8 mounted police officers, 2 dog units, Police Liaison Teams (PLTs), drone team and evidence gathering teams.

Resources available were larger than would normally be expected for a protest and would be effective at dealing with any potential disorder

- **Saturday 3 August**

- Police briefings state **Extreme Right Wing and Extreme Left Wing** crowds are both '**high risk**', and that despite 3 potential hotel targets, the Mercure Hotel was the 'likely target of the protesters'
- 8 PSUs deployed prior to the protest in Code 2 dress (high vis vests, police hats, PPE)
- **1 PSU deployed to Mercure hotel**

Counter protest in Castle Park

From ~18.10 – 18.50

Police officers are arriving in vans and on horseback to the area around Castle Park ahead of tonight's planned protest. I have seen one van from Dorset, with officers from other forces in attendance. Follow this thread for the latest updates as the evening unfolds.



~18.10: Police, including mounted police moving to Castle Park



~18.25: Elected Councillor Lorraine Francis speaking to counter-protestors



~18.40: One person taken out of crowd by police to boos from crowd

Anti-immigrant group arrive and clashes begin in Castle Park

From ~18.50 – 19.20



~18.53: Police bodycam footage of racist verbal abuse by protestors – person prosecuted



~19.00: Police form line between CPs and protestors, facing protestors

Police escalate in response to increasing tensions

From ~19.20 – 19.30

~19.22 -19.23:

Eyewitness testimony
- *"I video a group of far-right appearing to do gestures similar to a Nazi salute while chanting at the police."*

"The police use horses to expand the buffer zone. Some of the far-right are throwing objects – one lands near me and sounds heavy although I do not see what it was."



~19.27: Physical clashes begin between protestors and police

~19.27: Eyewitness testimony –
"Police including mounted police are maintaining a clear boundary line. At least some have batons drawn and ready on shoulders."



~19.27: Police dogs arriving

Clashes between police and anti-immigrant group, and move towards Bristol Bridge

From ~19.30 – 19.50

Police horses now stand between opposing protests in Castle Park



7:28 pm · 3 Aug 2024 · 8,871 Views

~19.28: Video of protestors throwing missiles at mounted police, laughing when targets hit



~19.30: Public order equipped police being deployed

Scenes have turned nasty as police struggle to separate opposing groups



7:47 pm · 3 Aug 2024 · 8,257 Views

~19.47: Violence between CPs, protestors and police as crowd moves towards bridge

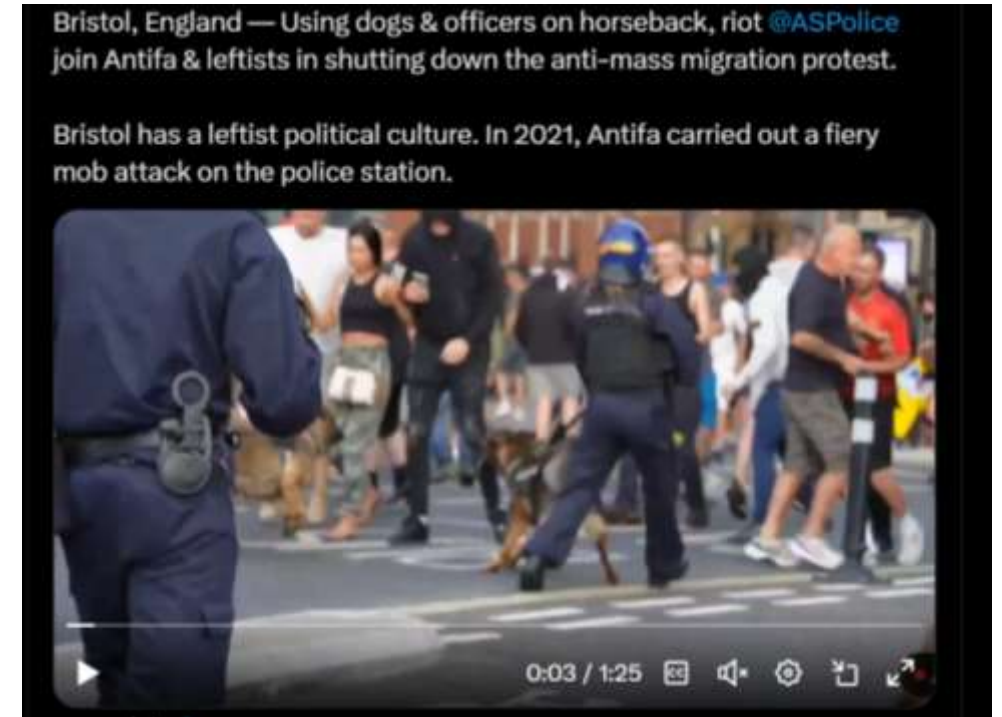
Clashes at bridge, and move towards Mercure Hotel

From ~19.50 – 20.10

~19.50: Eyewitness testimony - "Message from [redacted] who has seen about 60 far-right arriving at the Mercure."



20.07: Verbal clashes between protestors and police on police bodycam at bridge (person prosecuted)



~20.05 (posted 20.35): Police and dogs pushing protestors back from bridge, video captures arrests

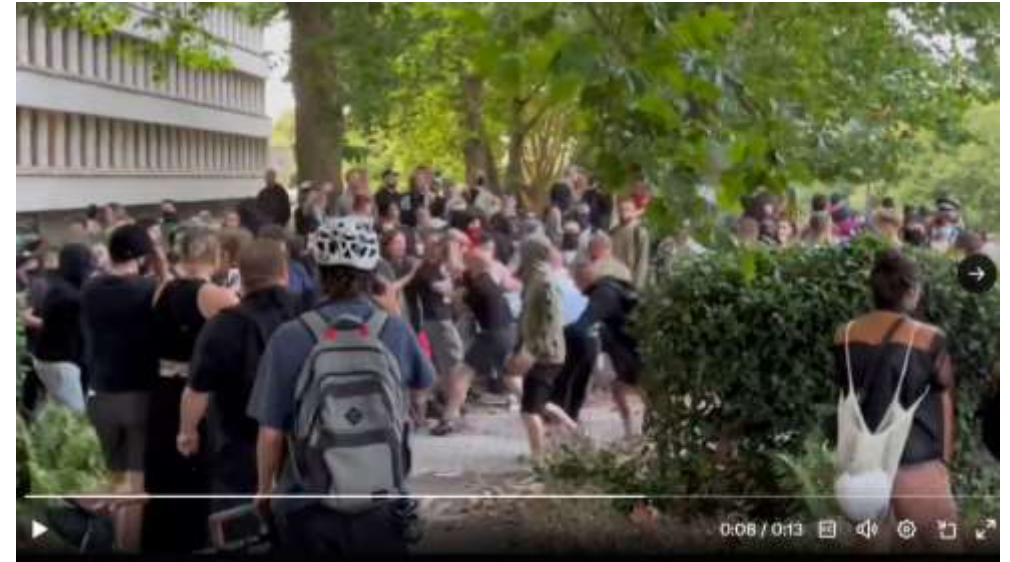
Clashes between CPs and anti-immigrant group at Mercure Hotel

From ~20.10 – 20.30

~20.25: Eyewitness testimony: *"There is no visible police presence. Far-right and counter-demonstrators are squaring up near the hotel entrance. I have a video from this timestamp. [redacted] is approached by a man who talks with them about the "invasion". I am filming this interaction. Without warning another man next to him knocks my phone from my hand and aggressively squares up to me and says the following: "Don't film me. Don't you fucking move. Keep your video to yourself. You fucking pedo"... he shoves me aggressively"*



~20.25: Video of 6 police on bicycles between protestors and CPs (chanting 'Nazi Scum, Off Our Streets')



~20.29: Video of protestors fighting with CPs in front of Mercure Hotel, 4 PLT officers present

Mounted police and PSU arrives, CPs continue protecting hotel

From ~20.30 – 21:15



~20.48: Video of 'mutual aid' PSU arriving at Mercure Hotel (Devon and Cornwall)



~21.05: Video of police and CPs standing in front of hotel (small group of protestors stand across the road). Chants heard from CPs: *'Go home, and take your hate away'*

Anti-immigrant group move towards Redcliffe roundabout, stand off continues at hotel

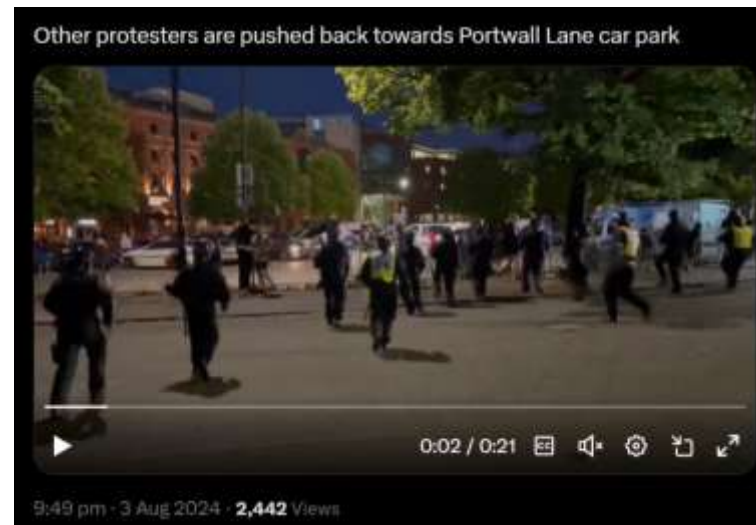
From ~21.13 – 22.10

~21.30: Eyewitness testimony

"A white man who looks to be in his 50s... tells the police outside the hotel that they should be on their (the far-right's) side. He shouts a phrase which I believe was (in reference to the refugees in the hotel). "Gas them all! Do the Jews too while you're at it!" He is clearly partly intoxicated... Some groups of protestors don't want to leave without assurances that the police will maintain a presence at the hotel all night. "



~21.30: PSUs forming lines across the road by St Mary Redcliffe Church



~21.49: Video of PSU pushing protestors back into Portwall Lane car park

Activity winds down

From ~22.10 – 23.20

In a sign that proceedings may now be winding down, police officers have taken off their helmets



10:17 pm · 3 Aug 2024 · 1,911 Views

~22.17: Video of police holding the line on Redcliff Roundabout, taking off helmets

~22.23: Eyewitness testimony - "*Message from [redacted] saying she and [redacted] received sexist abuse from far-right on their walk home.*"

A group of people who I think were part of the human shield outside the Mercure have now left the hotel



10:27 pm · 3 Aug 2024 · 2,059 Views

~22.27: CPs acting as human shield at Mercure Hotel head home

Key points



Anti-immigration
group did not
protest



Police were staffed
and resourced but
misplaced



Counter protestors
played a key role



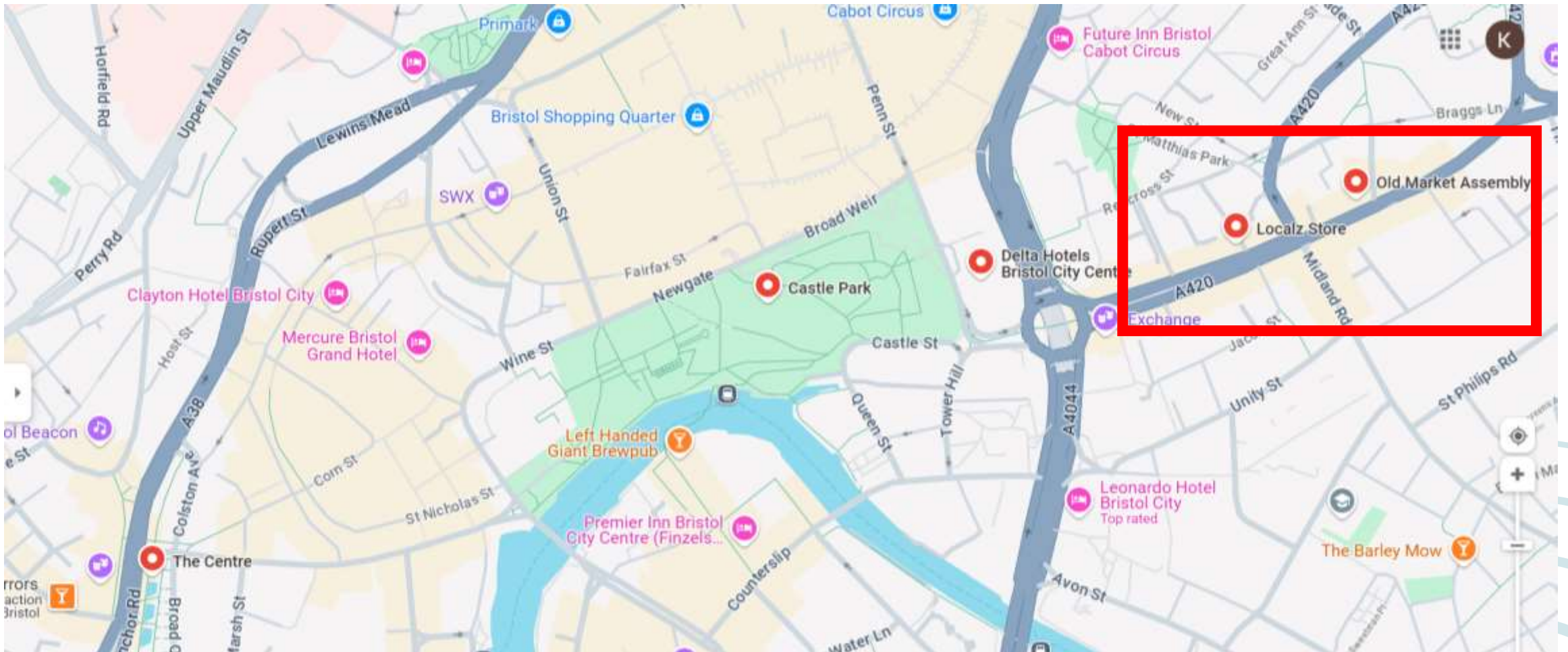
Group identities
were not
straightforward

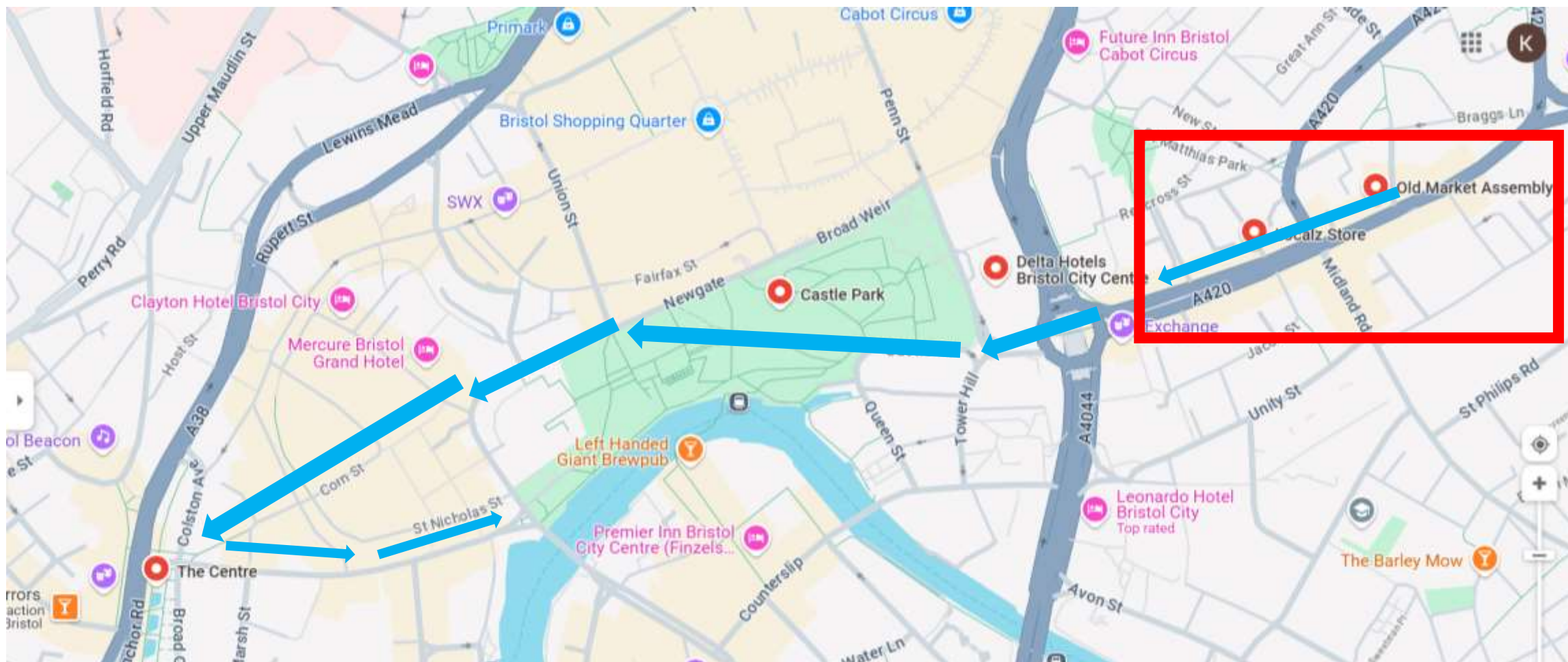


Behavioural
Research UK

Bristol Event 7th August

A case study of the counter-protest in Bristol on Wednesday 7
August 2024





Build up to event

From 5th August to ~18.00 7th August

“Wednesday needs to be a fire burning so bright they will see the flames from space”

- Circulated on Telegram on 5 August

- A&S declare Section 35 dispersal order from 16:00 7 Aug to 07:00 8 Aug
- '200 officers' to police Old Market area

Bristol Against Hate

Far-right racists have once again called a demo in Bristol. Join in resisting racism and help protect our communities

Saturday showed that Bristol is anti-fascist
Lets stay strong together and do it again!

DATE	7pm, Wednesday 7th August
LOCATION	Gya Williams Immigration, West Street. BS2 0BL

Wear a mask
Don't talk to cops
Come with friends if you can

Shared by Bristol Anarchist Federation
on social media on 5th August

Police information, and CP begins

From ~18.00 – 18.45

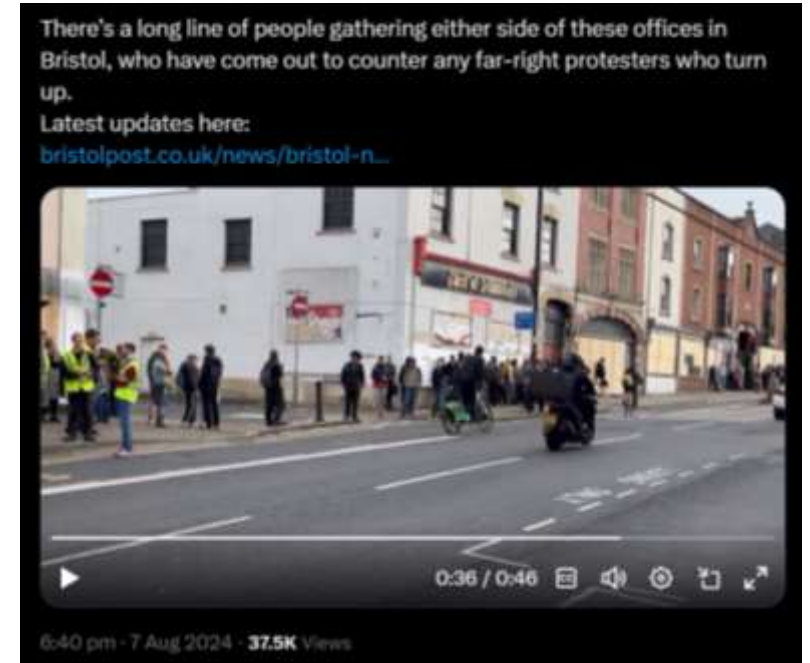
~18.00: Chief Inspector Vicks Hayward-Melen said:

"The number of people who may show up or any intentions after getting to West Street are not clear. I want to reiterate that we have no information that suggests a march is planned on Stapleton Road or into Easton".

~18.35: Supt. Mark Runacres urges members of the public to feed any information back to the police as they receive it

Supt Mark Runacres says talk of the far right protesters trying to march down Stapleton Rd is misinformation.

They have also had reports of a plan for them to march to Old Market from Bristol city centre.



~18.40: Video showing first CPs protecting law firm and boarded up shop fronts (arrived earlier on)

Large CP crowd gathers on West St/Old Market

From ~18.45 – 19.50



~18.55: Photo posted on X (Twitter) shows large CP crowd on West St – smiling faces, some masks worn



~19.45: Blog publishes photo of mounted police moving up West St

Breakaway CP crowd moves towards Centre/Castle Park

From ~19.50 – 20.20



~19.55: Tone changes, breakaway CP crowd moves towards Castle Park down West St/Old Market



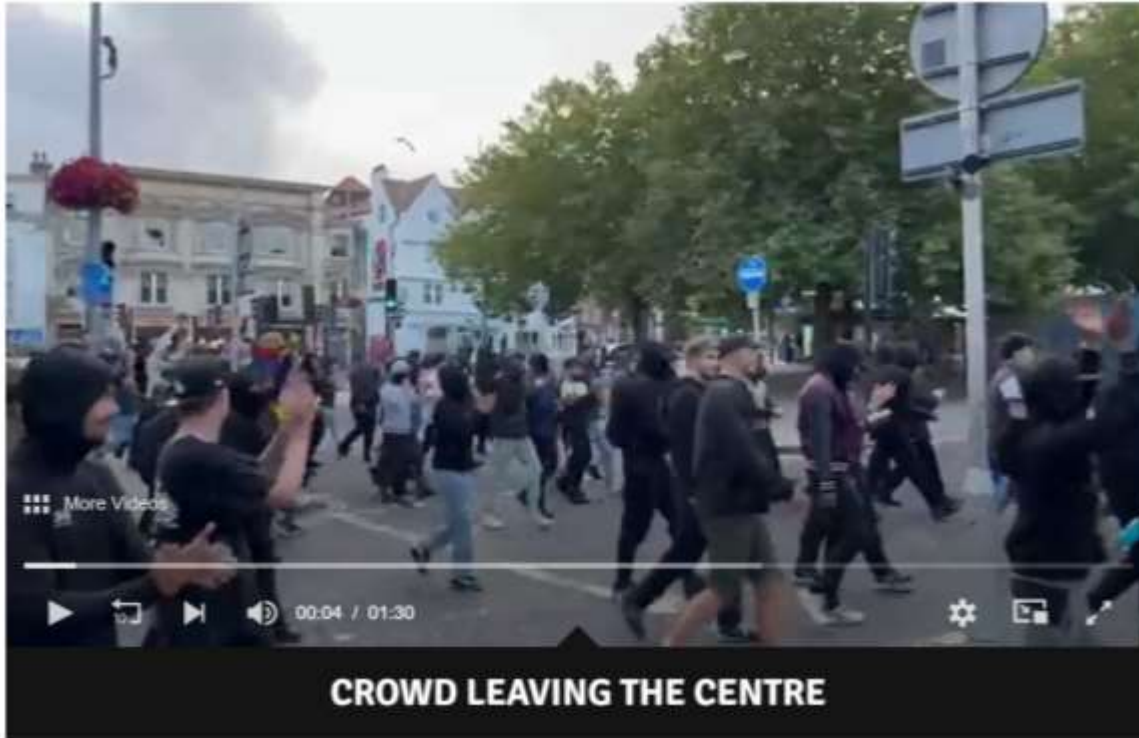
~ 20.02: Live blog – *'The words from our reporter at the scene: "This is a hugely fluid situation - no idea what is going on." ... People are saying they've heard that the far right are at the Centre or College Green - that's the rumours. "Police are trying to keep pace, but struggling to," says our reporter.'*

Isolated incident of fireworks set off in Castle Park Around ~20.00

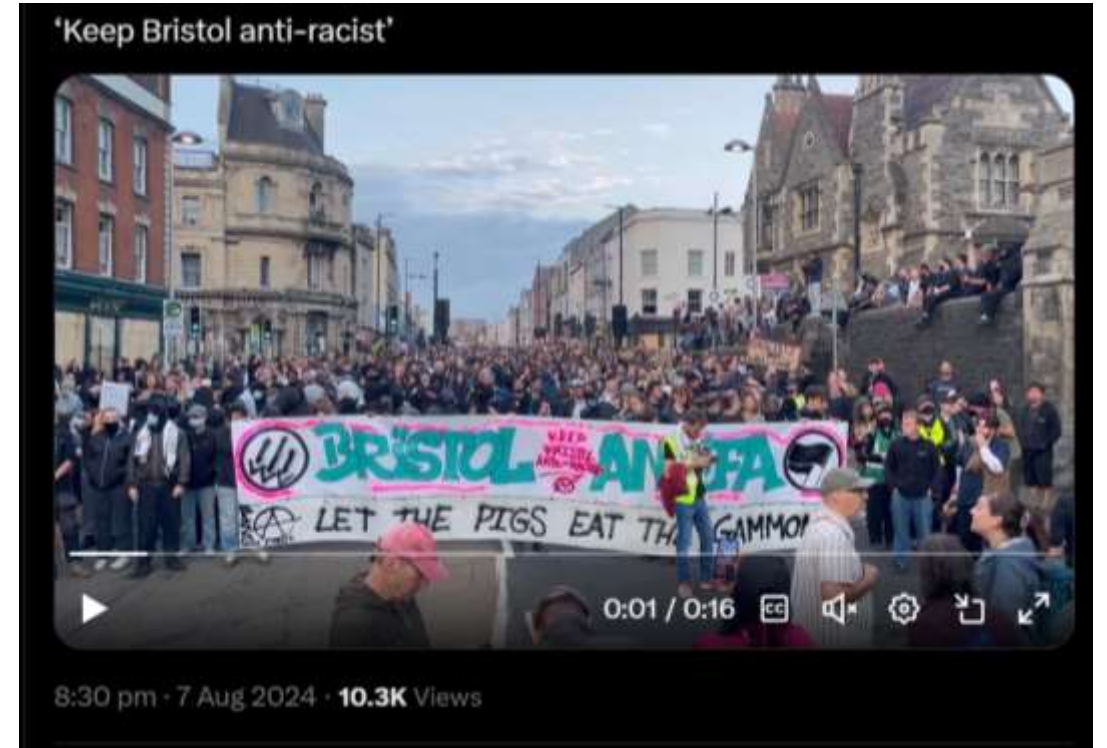


~20.15: Live blog reports fireworks let off
in Castle Park and police assessing
situation

Return to West St/ Old Market From ~20.25 – 20.40



~20.25: Video of breakaway group clapping and returning to West St/Old Market from Centre



~20.30: Video on Twitter of large CP crowd at Old Market – banner reads 'Bristol Antifa, Let the Pigs Eat the Gammon'

CP crowd begins dispersing, street party begins

From ~20.40 – 21.20

~21.00 : Live blog post:

'Protest winding down . After protestors marched around the city centre, they have returned to Old Market and the counter demo is thinning out and turning into more of a party. There is a massive queue for the only offy on West Street that stayed open, as demonstrators line up to get a tinny.'



~21.20: Photo on live blog of CPs sitting outside law firm offices

Street party, police presence remains

From ~21.20

~21.20: Live blog post:

'Large numbers remain at Old Market.

There's still around 1,000 people milling about in West St and Old Market and it's become something of a party atmosphere with a mini sound system playing music and people sat around on the road chatting and laughing.

There is still a discreet police presence but people are slowly beginning to drift away. The road is still closed with buses on diversion around to the M32.'



~21.50: Police line at Old Market

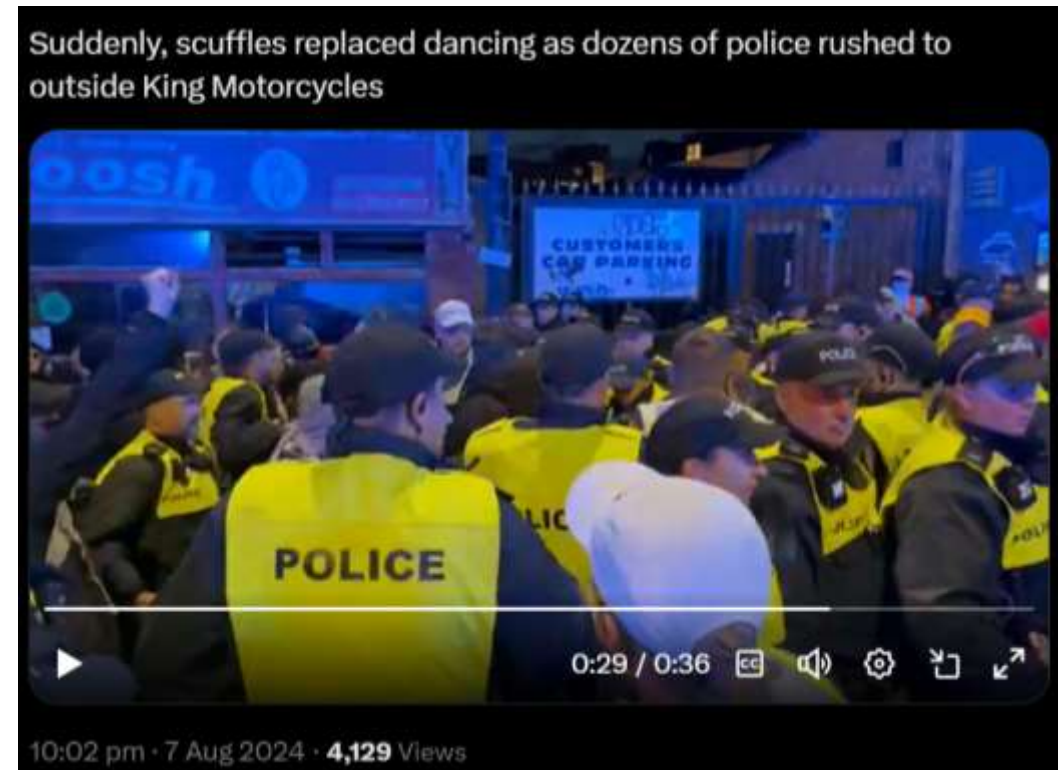
Scuffle and arrest

Approximately ~21.50 – 22.10

~21.59: Live blog update:

"Someone just threw a rock at the back of a police van by Old Market roundabout. Police tried to chase him, but didn't catch him."

"About five minutes ago police walked into the crowd and grabbed him, but many of the crowd saw and tried to stop the police arresting him. A huge scrum ensued and police drew their batons and tried to arrest him."



~22.02: Video of police rushing into crowd – Crowd chants 'No justice, no peace, no racist police'

Street party continues and winding down

From ~22.10 – 22.46



~22.24: Dancing in the middle of the street

~22.29: Live blog updates:

'This is a party now'

The DJ with the mic just said: "This is a party now, I declare this as a victory against the fascists. This is a victory for love and a victory for hope."

"Everybody came out and this is a party in the street which didn't cost anything."

~22.46: Live blog updates:

Crowd dwindling now as sound system is off.

It is all winding down now. The crowd is dwindling as the sound system has been turned off.

The road has reopened and there is only a handful of people left hanging around.

Key points



Police in attendance but largely peaceful relations



Misinformation on far-right gathering at immigration lawyers' office



Misinformation led to breakaway group action



Overall atmosphere was of victory



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The
University
Of
Sheffield.



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

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