



The
University
Of
Sheffield.

Does the presence of lighting encourage cycling after-dark?

Dr Jim Uttley

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International Conference on Environmental Psychology,

University of Plymouth, 4-6 Sep 2019



Importance of light for cycling

Transportation (2011) 38:153–168
DOI 10.1007/s11116-010-9284-y

Motivators and deterrents of bicycling: comparing influences on decisions to ride

Meghan Winters • Gavin Davidson • Diana Kao • Kay Teschke

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Survey of potential and current cyclists (N = 1,402)

Ratings of 73 potential deterrents and motivators for cycling

-1 (“Much less likely to cycle”) to +1 (“Much more likely to cycle”)



I can make the trip in daylight hours

Mean rating = +0.50

Ranked in top 10
biggest motivators



The route is not well lit after dark

Mean rating = -0.59

Ranked in top 10
biggest deterrents

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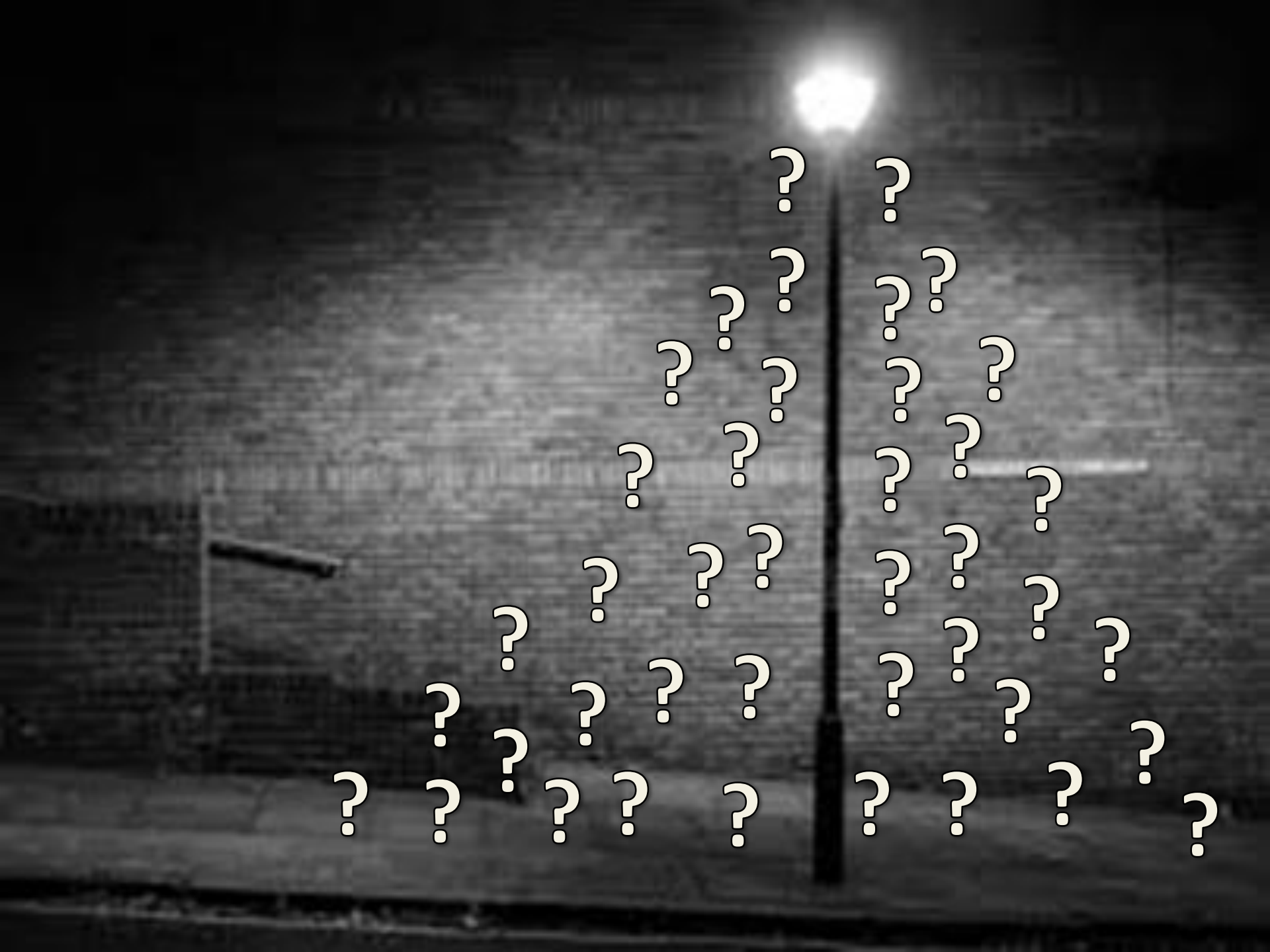
Ranked in top 10
biggest motivators



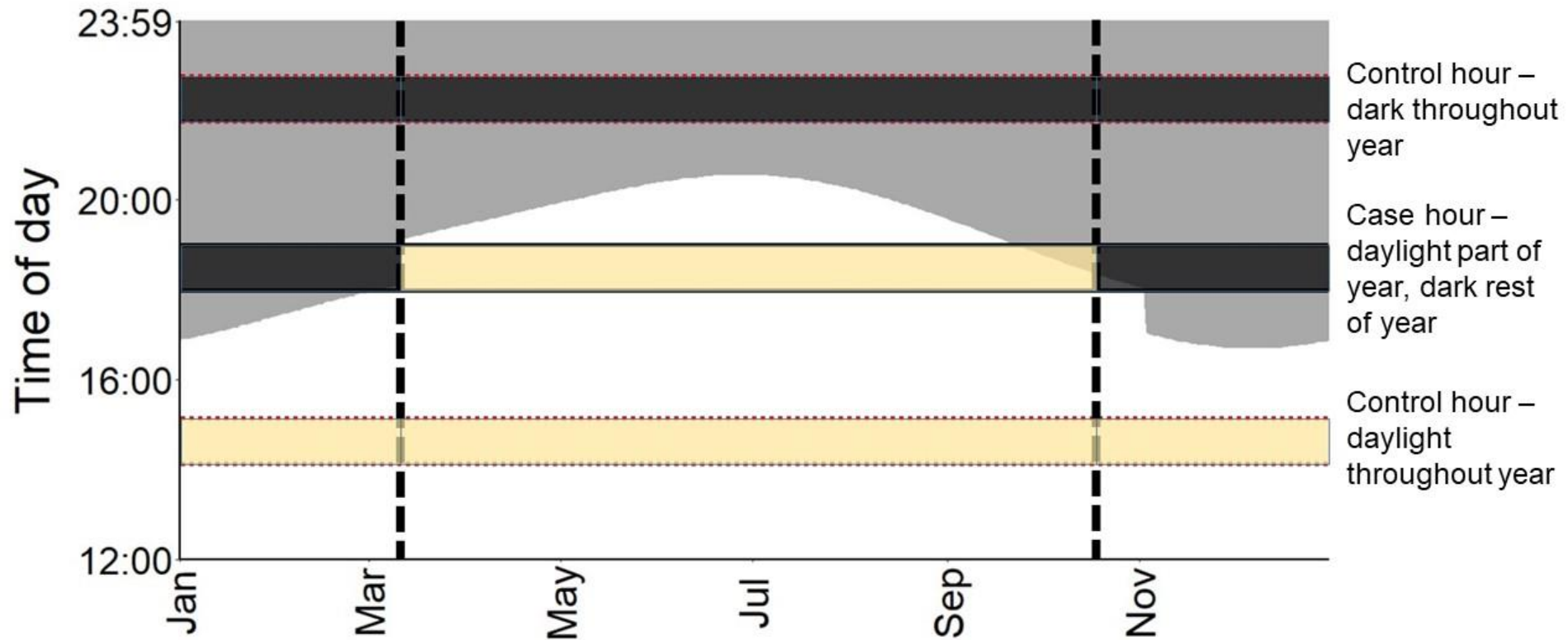
The route is not well lit after dark

Mean rating for regular cyclists = -0.37

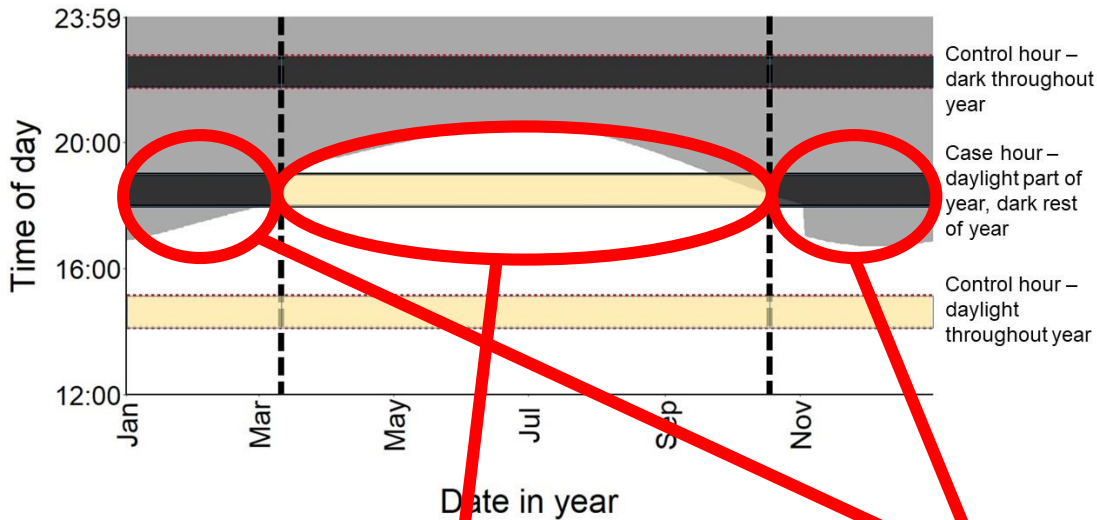
Mean rating for potential cyclists = -0.70



Odds ratio to quantify effect of darkness



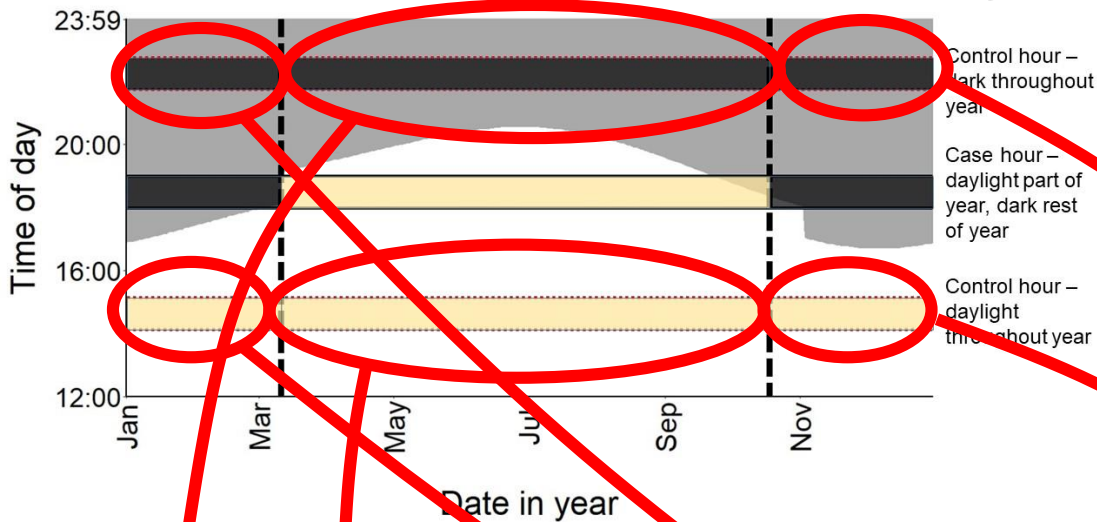
Odds ratio to quantify effect of darkness



$$\text{Case hour in daylight} \div \text{Case hour in darkness}$$

$$\text{Control hour when case hour in daylight} \div \text{Control hour when case hour in darkness}$$

Odds ratio to quantify effect of darkness



Case hour in daylight ÷ Case hour in darkness

Control hour when
case hour in daylight

÷

Control hour when
case hour in darkness

= **Odds ratio** (effect of darkness on cyclist numbers)

Odds ratio to quantify effect of darkness



Odds ratio > 1

**Significantly
fewer cyclists
due to
darkness**

= Odds ratio (effect of darkness on cyclist numbers)

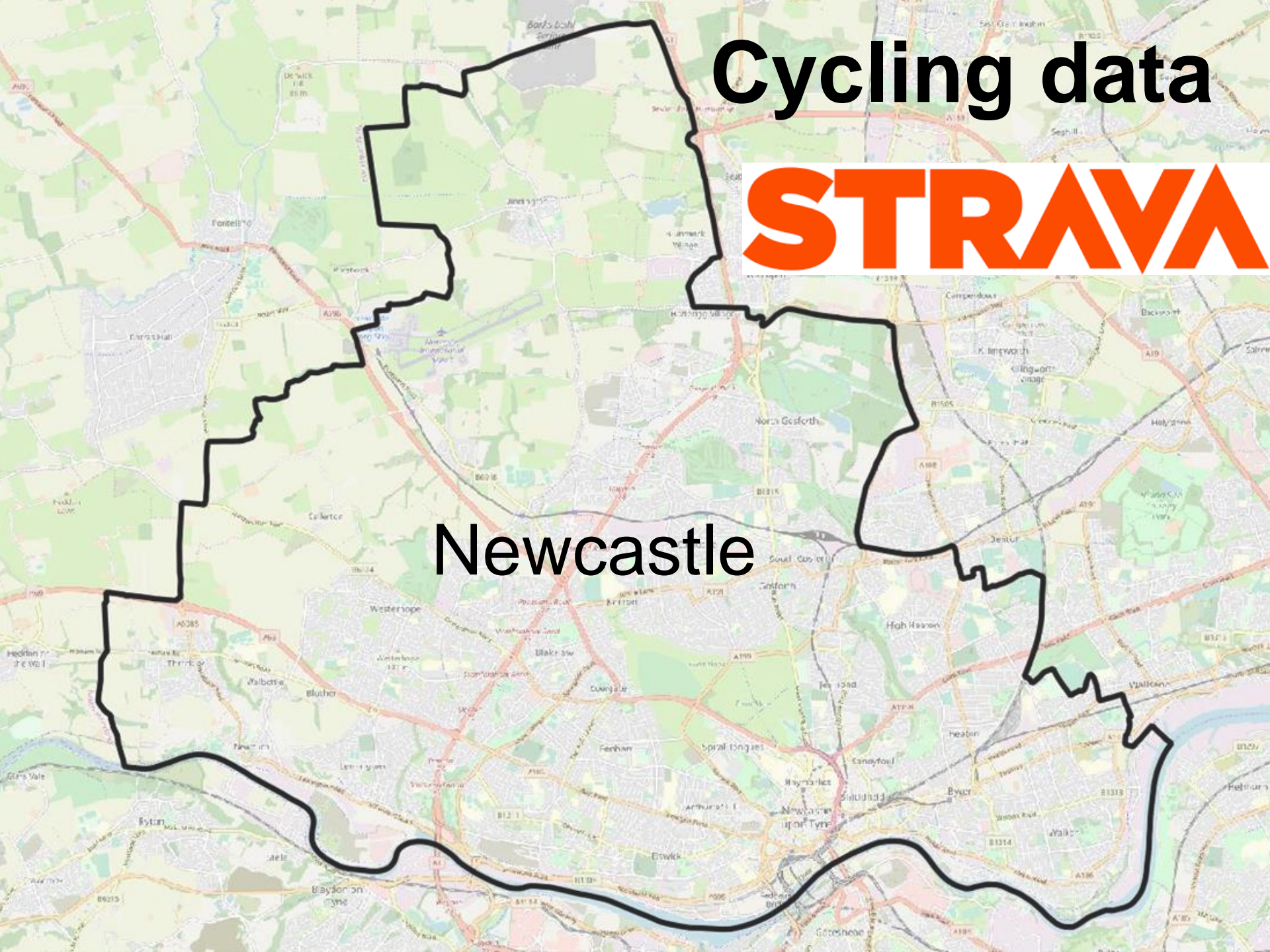
BIG DATA



Cycling data

STRAVA

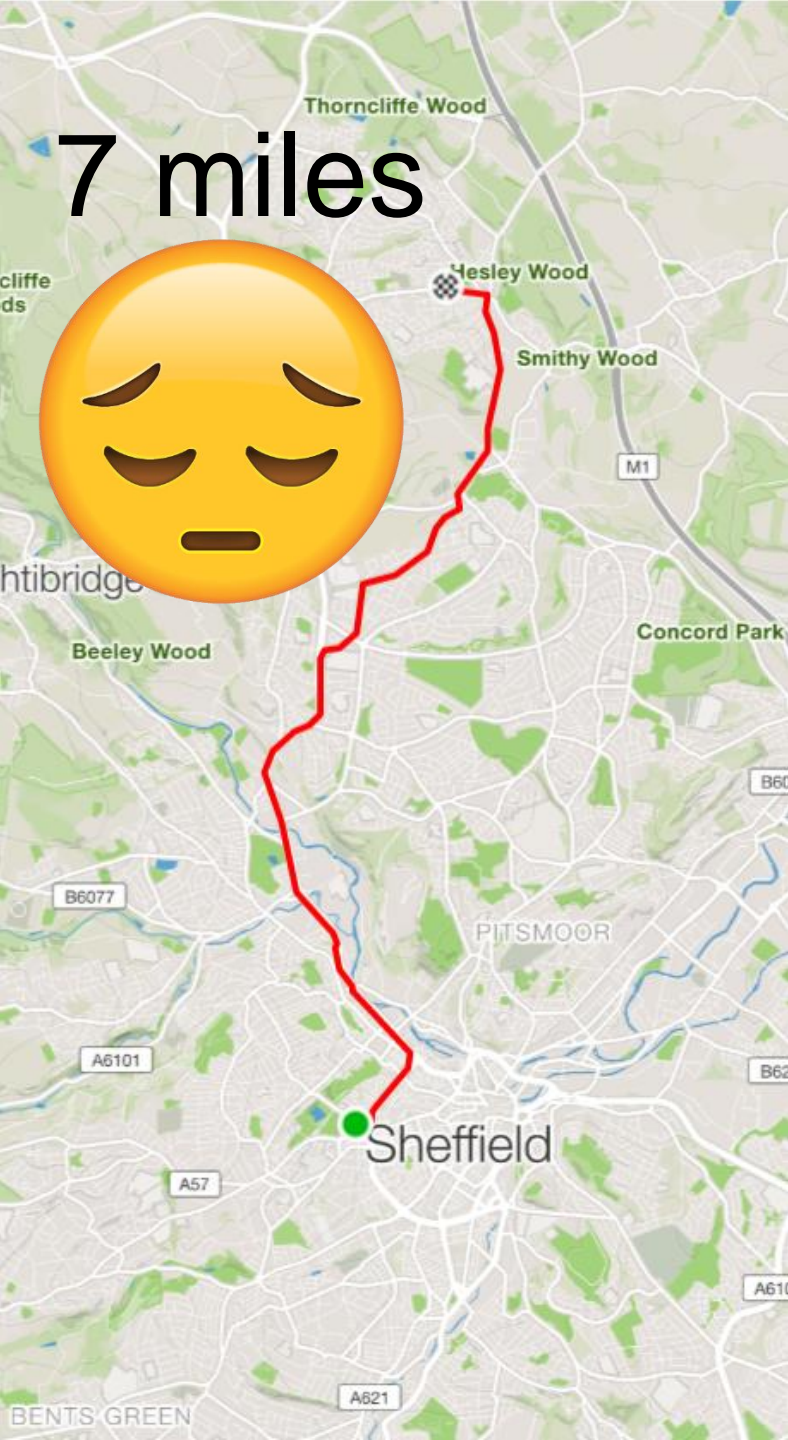
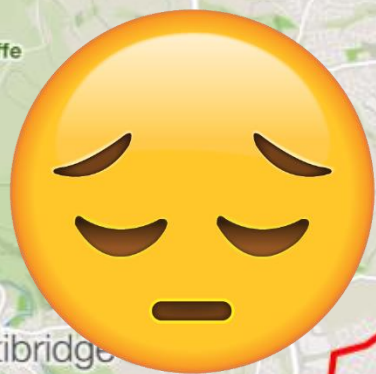
Newcastle



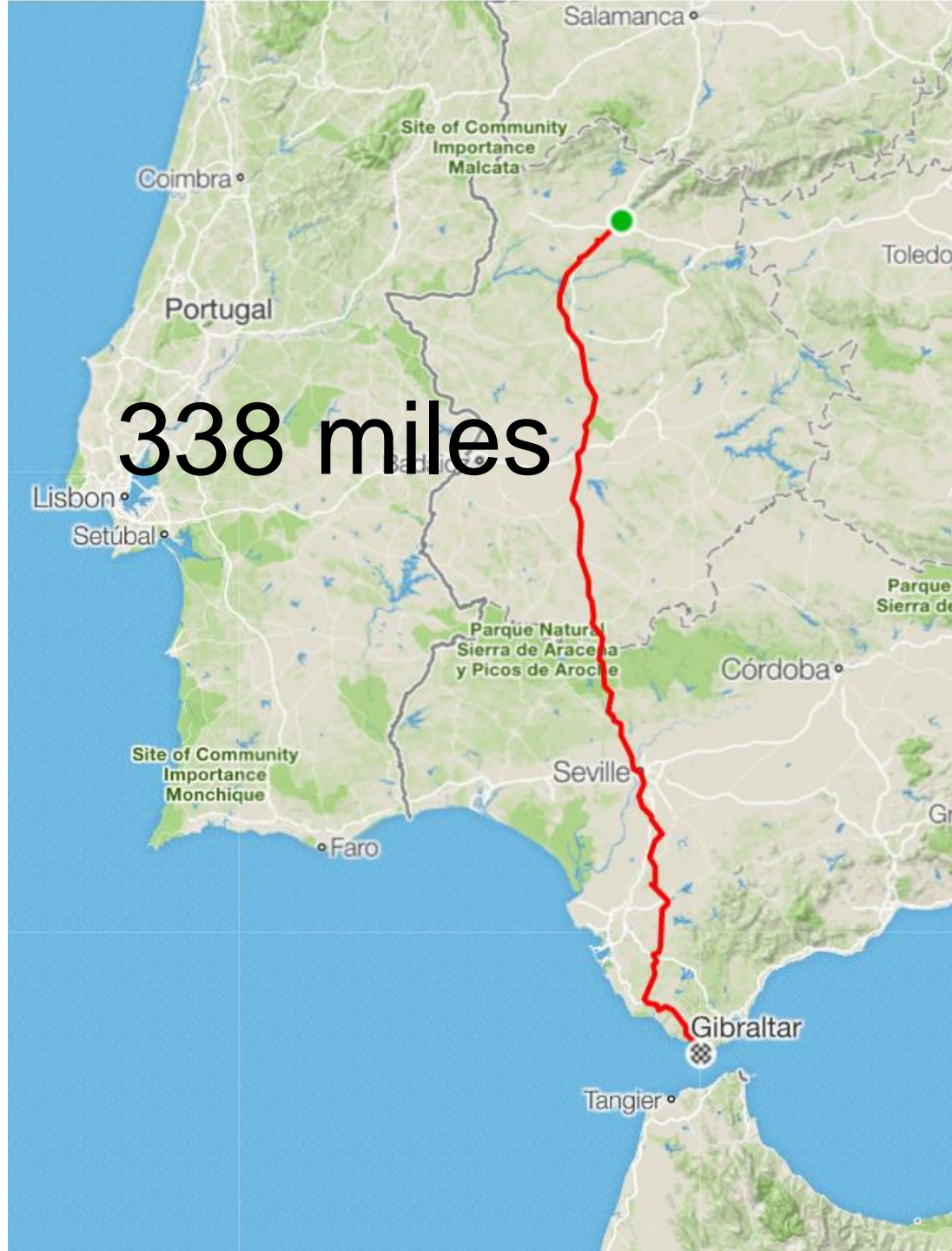
7 miles



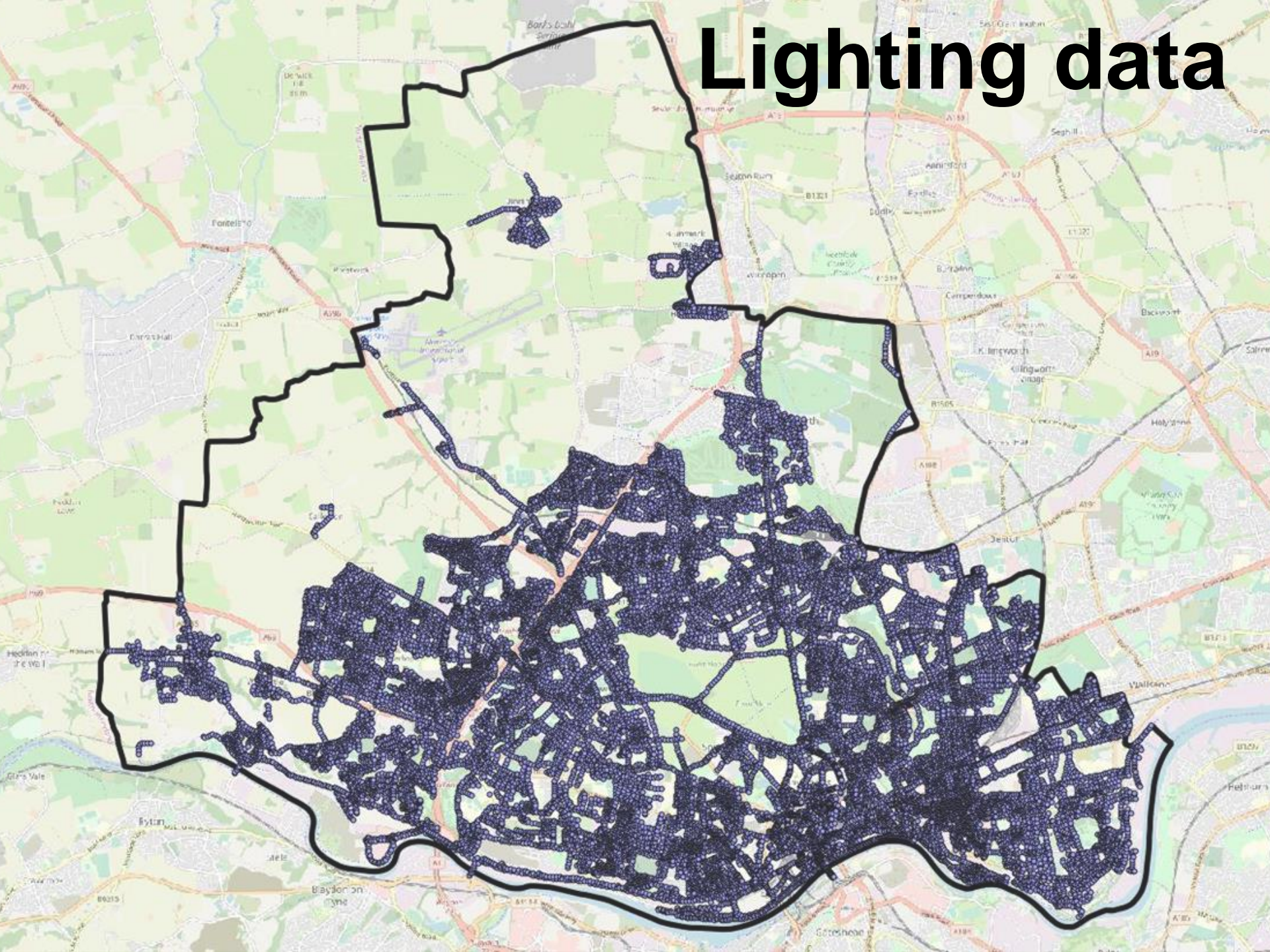
7 miles

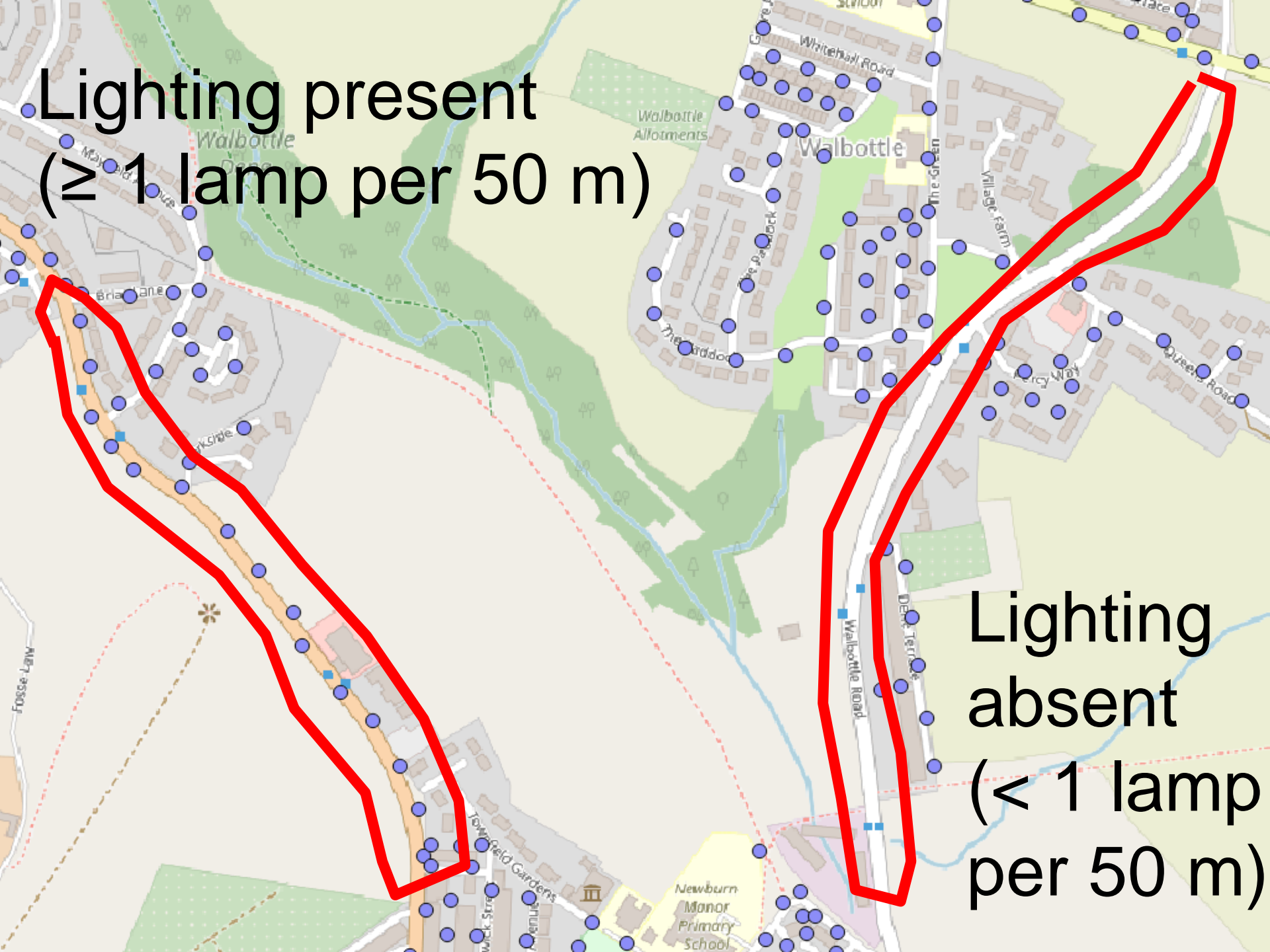


338 miles



Lighting data



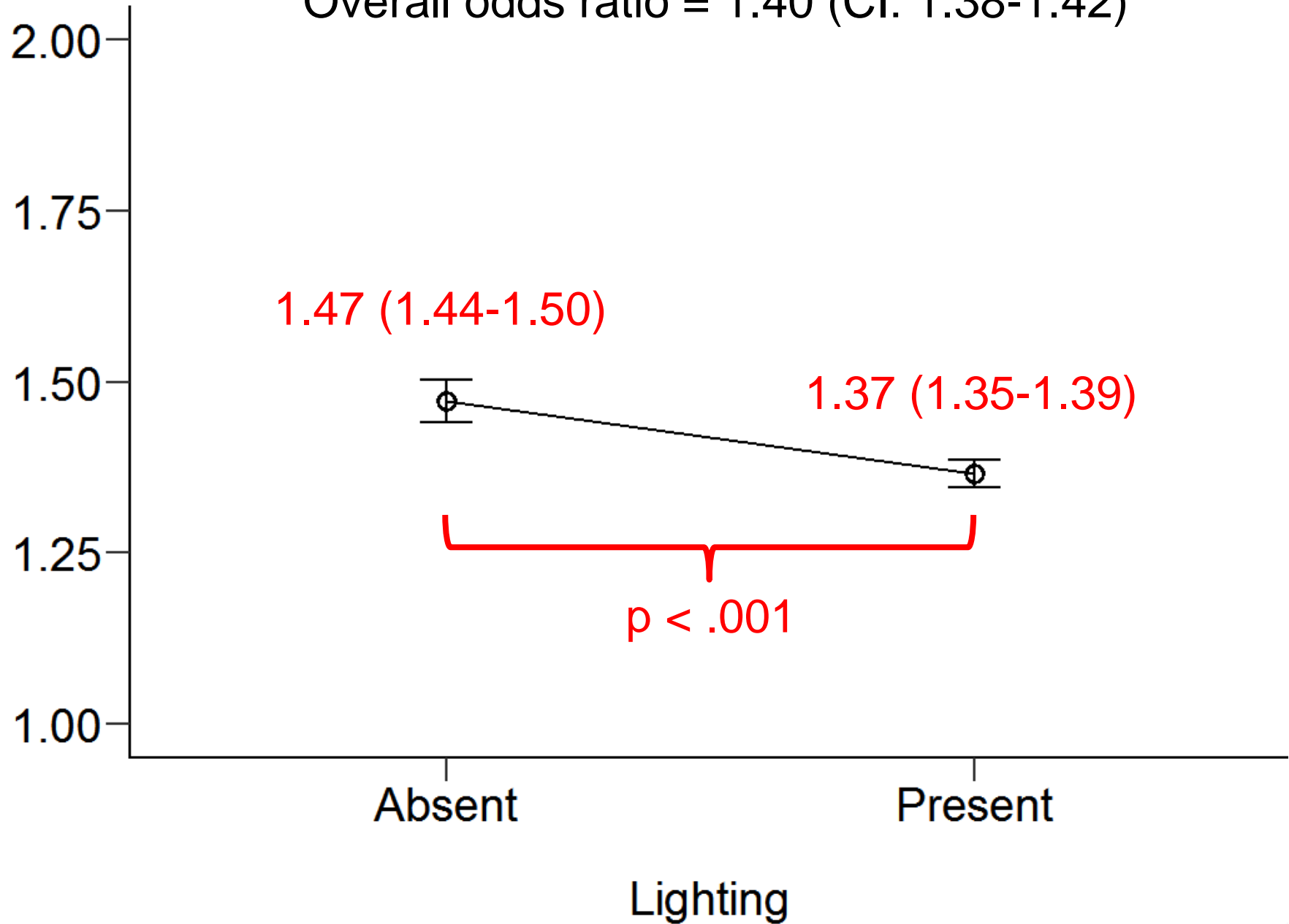


Lighting present
(≥ 1 lamp per 50 m)

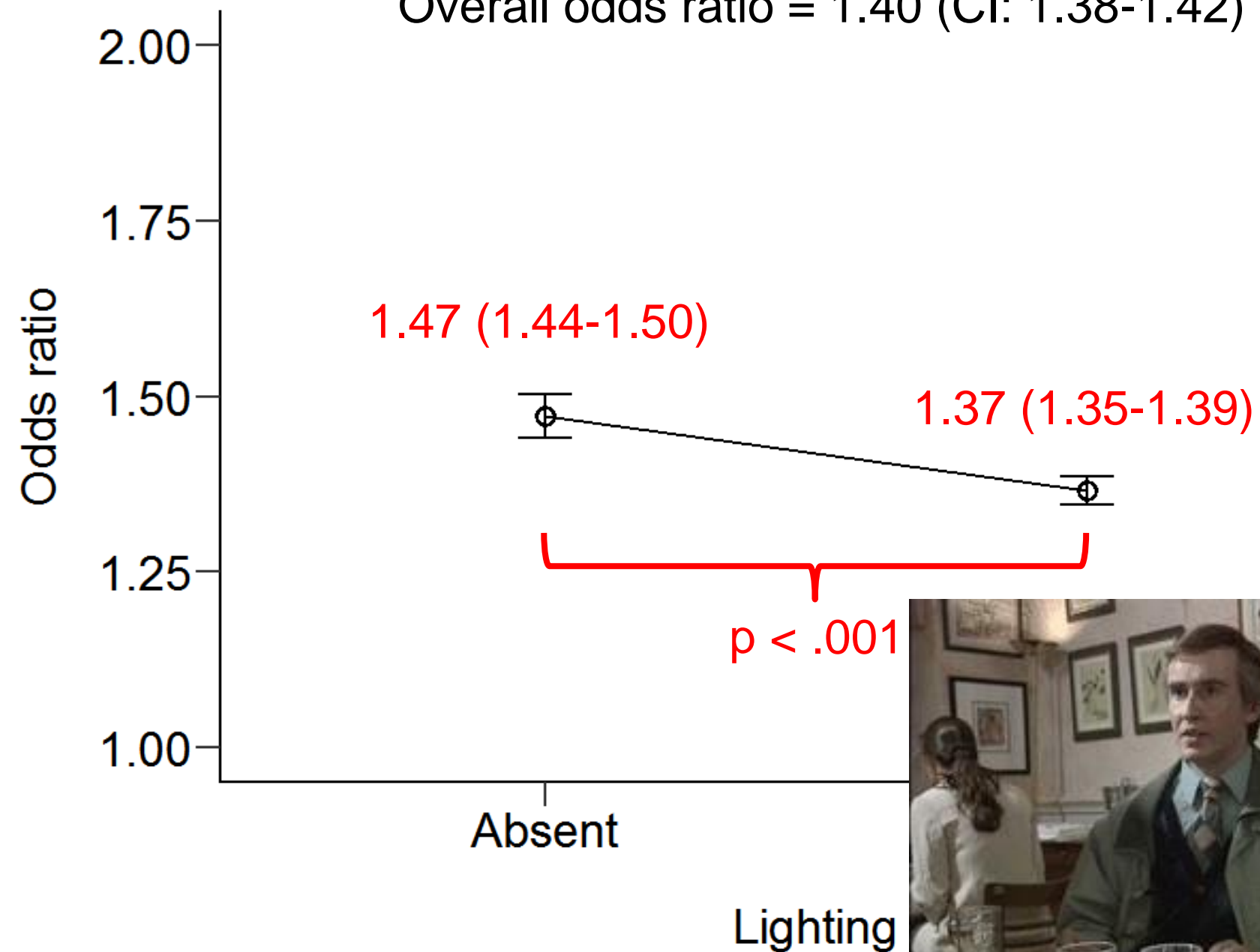
Lighting
absent
(< 1 lamp
per 50 m)

Overall odds ratio = 1.40 (CI: 1.38-1.42)

Odds ratio



Overall odds ratio = 1.40 (CI: 1.38-1.42)



Cycling data

STRAVA



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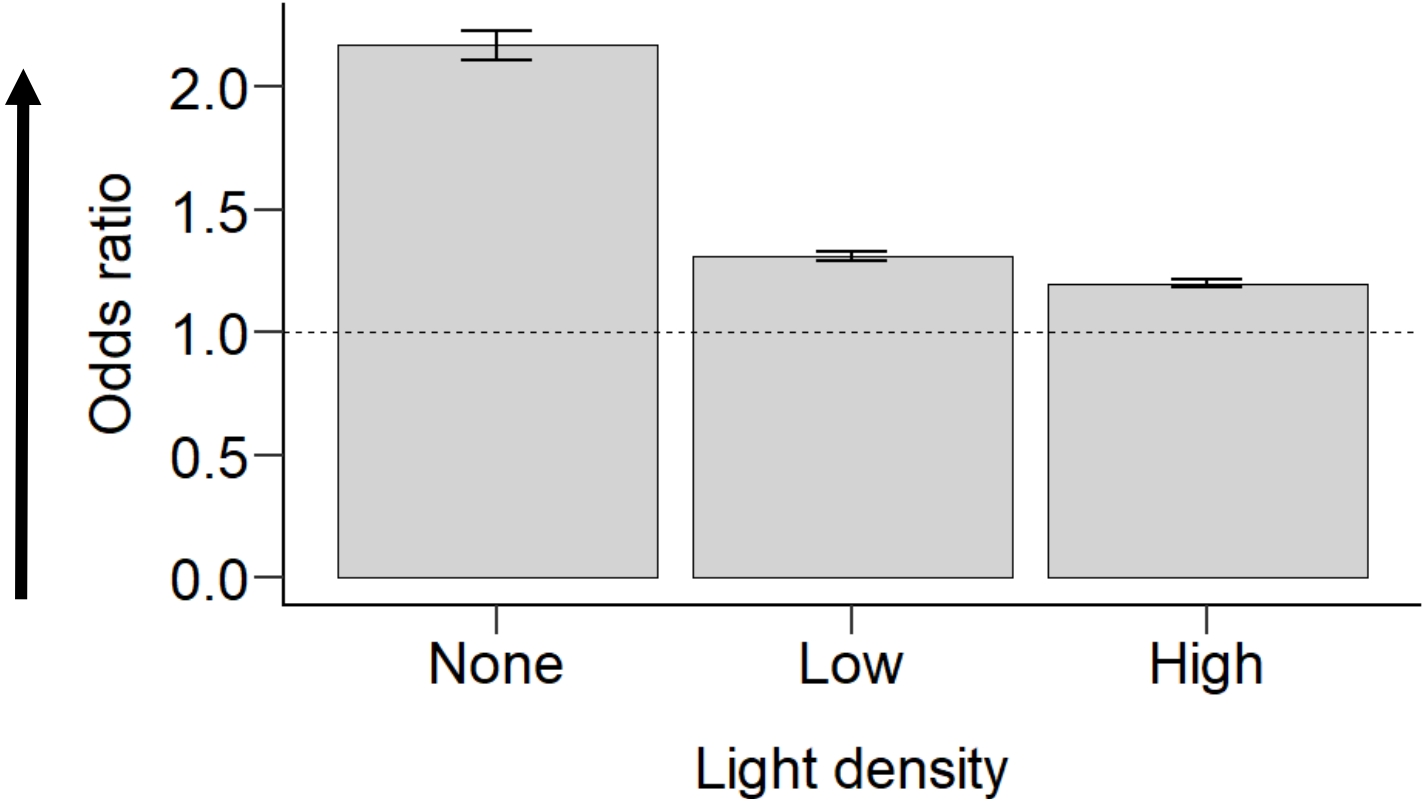
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Mean rating for potential cyclists = -0.70

Data from Birmingham using cycle counters

Street light density category	Number of cycle counters	Median street light density (lights per 100 m)
None	8	0
Low	20	2.0
High	20	3.5

Larger odds ratio = greater reduction after-dark





Thanks for listening

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<http://www.lightingresearch.group.shef.ac.uk/>

Any questions?

