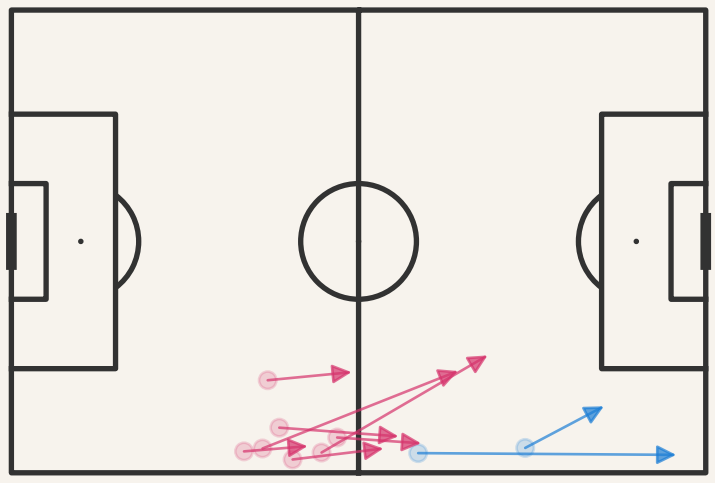
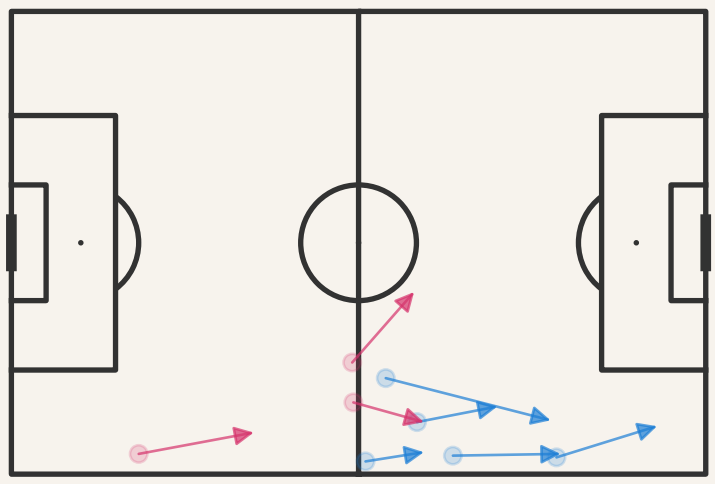
Ellie Carpenter long carries
Women's World Cup 2019
Showing all carries with minimum 10 metres forwards
Originating in the **defensive** and **attacking** halves of the pitch

StatsBomb

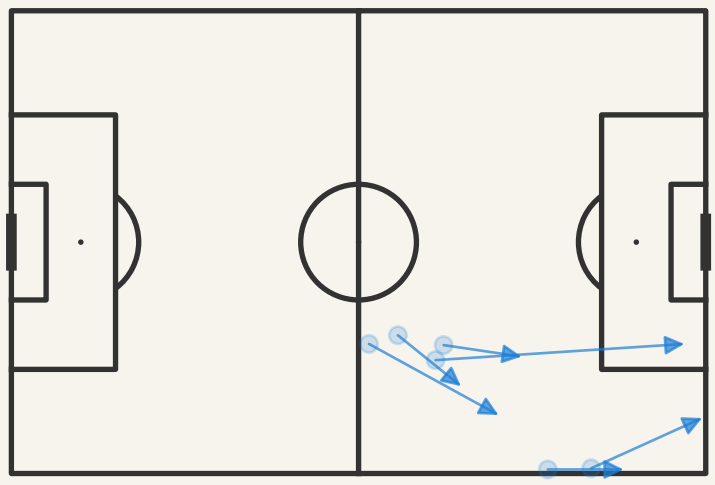
Australia 1 - Italy 2
9 June 2019
9 long carries, 22% from attacking half



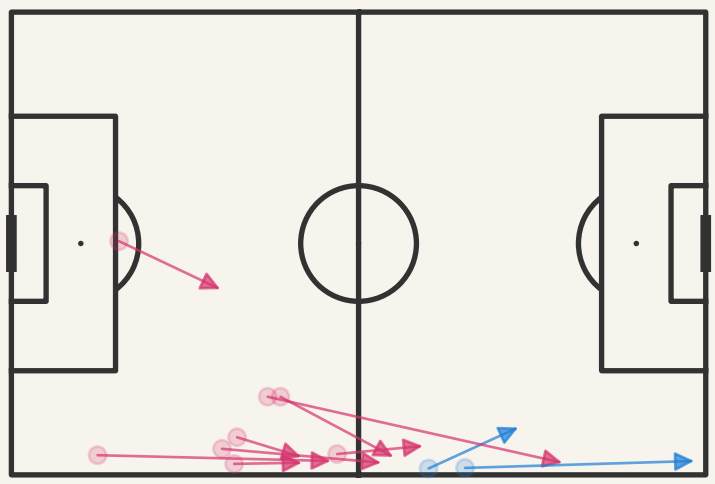
Australia 3 - Brazil 2
13 June 2019
8 long carries, 62% from attacking half



Jamaica 1 - Australia 4
18 June 2019
6 long carries, 100% from attacking half



Norway 1 - Australia 1
22 June 2019
10 long carries, 20% from attacking half



Ellie Carpenter is the Matildas' (Australia's) right-back and plays a key role in contributing to the build up of attacks, particularly via driving runs down the right wing.

Isolating just those carries which progressed the ball 10 or more metres further up the pitch, we can see a fairly strong correlation between Carpenter's involvement in carries originating in the attacking half, and team success.

The Matildas opened their World Cup campaign with a loss to Italy, and Carpenter carried the ball for 10 or more metres on nine occasions, only two (22%) of which originated in the opposition half.

The Matildas then won their remaining two group stage games, which saw Carpenter have much heavier involvement in the attacking half, with 62% of her long carries originating here against Brazil, and every single one against Jamaica.

In the round of 16 match against Norway, Carpenter's long carries were restricted to originating from the defensive half much more, with only 20% in the attacking half, painting a very similar picture to the opening loss against Italy. Australia would ultimately draw this match after extra time and be eliminated from the World Cup on penalties.

The correlation observed is certainly not necessarily causal. It is possible that Ellie Carpenter driving forward from the attacking half contributes to a greater chance of goals and victory, but equally possible that in tough matches she is necessarily required to track back and retrieve the ball further in defence before embarking on carries that in an easier match would otherwise have begun further upfield.

Analysis by Justin Lyons using StatsBomb Open Data
Soccermatics: Mathematical modelling of football - Assignment 1