

# FACTORS AFFECTING THE PRESENCE AND ABSENCE OF HEDGEHOGS IN UK GARDENS



EMILY GILFORD

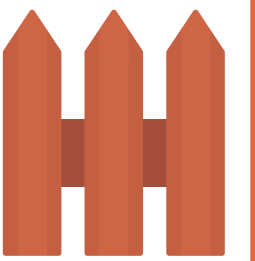
## WHY STUDY THIS?

- European Hedgehog is a much loved UK species
- But how are populations doing in the wild?
- Nocturnal - difficult to study



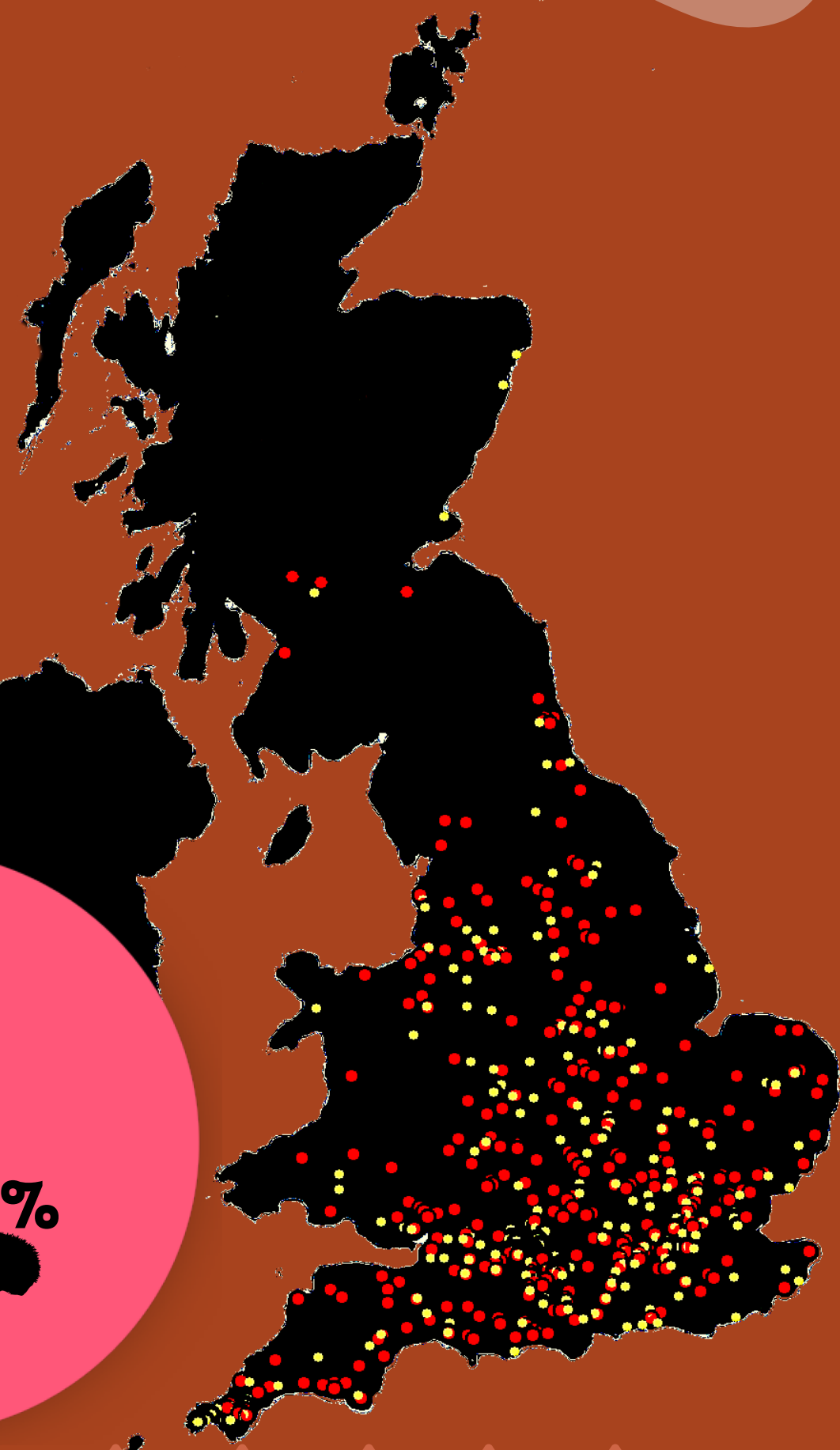
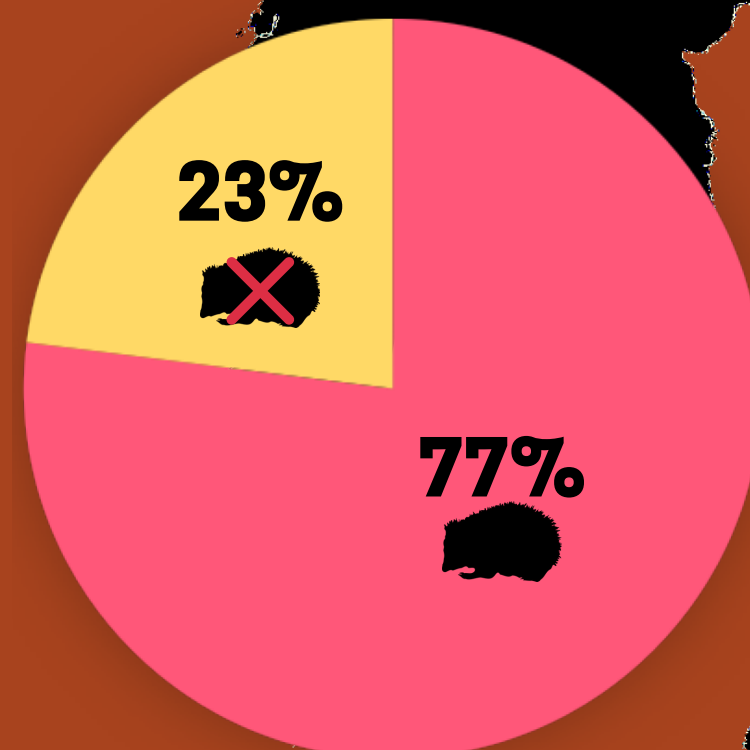
## WHAT DID WE DO?

- Used citizen science (surveys) to collect data on hedgehog sightings
- Used postcodes and info on garden borders



## WHAT DID WE FIND?

- 1,601 completed surveys
- 77% reported hedgehog sightings
- Concentration of sightings in SW England
- Few in SE England, linked to rapid urbanisation here
- Most hedgehogs in suburban areas
- Hedgehogs mainly in gardens with open boundaries (fences as opposed to walls)



## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

- Hedgehogs travel up to 3km per night
- To help hedgehogs we should allow for easy movement between gardens - open borders (fences, holes etc).

