

Teacher Notes

- This assembly is aimed at KS2 children
- It has been prepared by the Farm School Coordinator as part of the Changing Chalk Project
- For more information, please contact Hannah.Tedman@brighton-hove.gov.uk
- Each slide as guidance notes with more information and additional facts
- More information on farming on the South Downs and educational links can be found in [Why Farming Matters to the South Downs](#)

Farming on the South Downs


KS2 Assembly

What do you think of when you hear the word...

Brighton



Maybe, it's the beach?

An aerial photograph of the South Downs National Park landscape. The image shows rolling green hills with patches of yellow and orange, indicating a sunset or sunrise. A winding road cuts through the fields, and a dense line of trees runs across the middle ground. In the distance, a large stadium is visible on the horizon. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with wispy clouds.

But if you turn away from the sea, on the horizon you will see the
South Downs National Park.

This is also an important landscape connected to Brighton and Hove.



It's important to our city, because over 100 years ago Brighton and Hove City Council bought a large part of the South Downs.



The land owned by Brighton and Hove has been divided
into **tenant farms**.

tenant

a person who occupies a
house or land rented from a
landlord

landlord

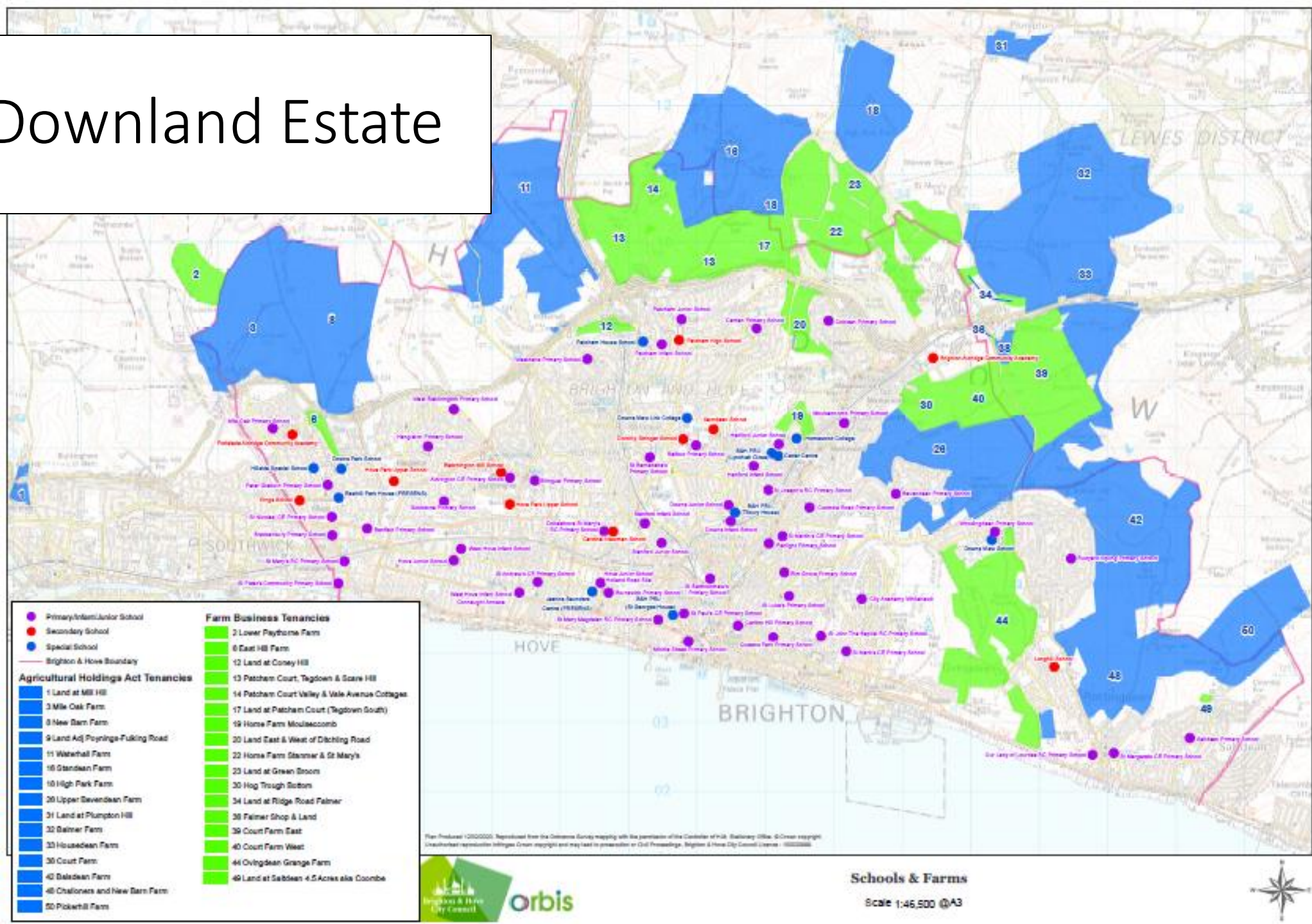
any individual, or entity such as a government body or an institution, who charges rent to a person living in a home they do not own



Brighton and Hove City Council are the farmer's landlord.

They own the land that is farmed around our city.

BHCC's Downland Estate



Farming Landscapes

The South Downs are a managed landscape.

Farming practice over 100s of years has shaped the landscape of the South Downs

Farming practices have made some very important habitats including chalk downland and lowland heath.



Listen to the following
poem by Rudyard Kipling.

Can you recognise any of
the place names?

Can you hear any types of
farming mentioned?



The Run of the Downs

by Rudyard Kipling

*The Weald is good, the Downs are best-
I'll give you the run of 'em, East to West.
Beachy Head and Winddoor Hill,
They were once and they are still.
Firle Mount Caburn and Mount Harry
Go back as far as sums 'll carry.
Ditchling Beacon and Chanctonbury Ring
They have looked on many a thing,
And what those two have missed between 'em
I reckon Truleigh Hill has seen 'em.
Highden, Bignor and Duncton Down
Knew Old England before the Crown.
Linch Down, Treyford and Sunwood
Knew Old England before the Flood;
And when you end on the Hampshire side-
Butser's old as Time and Tide.
**The Downs are sheep, the Weald is corn,
You be glad you are Sussex born!***

Mixed Farming

*'The Downs are sheep, the Weald is corn,
You be glad you are Sussex born!'* Rudyard Kipling



Just sheep and corn....?

Habitat
creation

Barley

Animal feed

Protection of
chalk
grassland

Cattle

Goats

Oilseed rape

Peas and
beans

Linseed

Vegetables



**All these products
have been sourced
from crops and
livestock farmed on
the South Downs...**

Who farms the land?

[Click the picture to watch the video.](#)



What can you do at home?

1

Visit the South
Downs

2

Shop local, buy local

3

Visit a farm shop

What can you do at school?

1

Grow your own
vegetables or crops

2

Find out more about
farming on your
doorstep

3

Contact your local
farmer and arrange
a visit