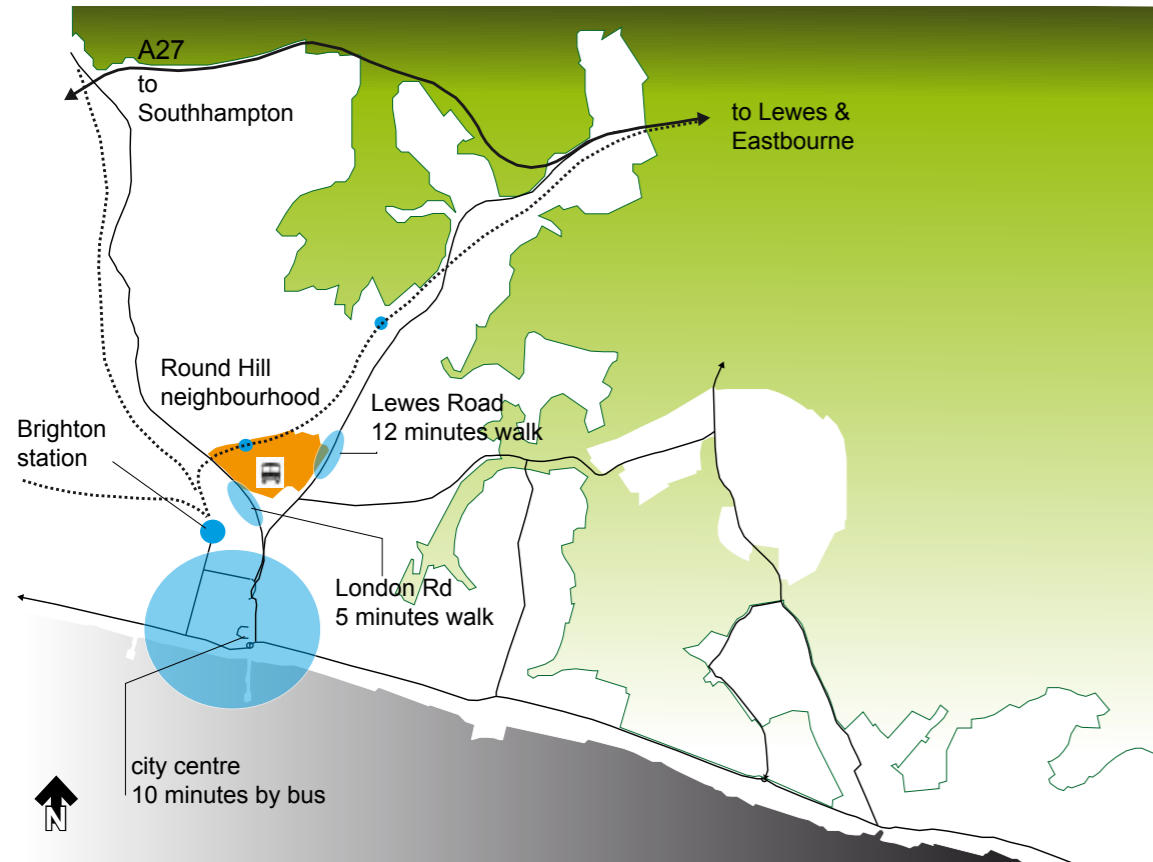


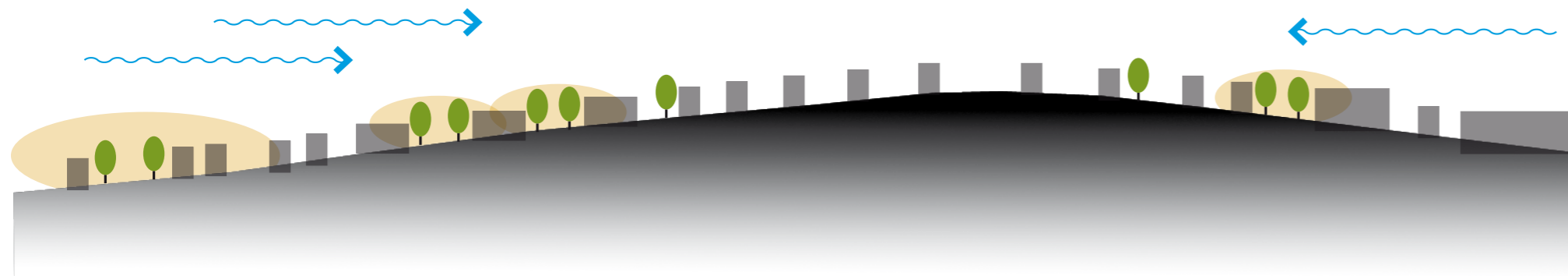
21 round hill neighbourhood

context



topography & microclimate

As the name suggests, Round Hill neighbourhood lies on rising ground immediately north of the city centre. The neighbourhood provides views over the city, including to St. Peter's Church, the sea and the Downs. Although mostly on raised ground, the streets feel sheltered from the prevailing winds. The abundance of street trees help to reduce wind speeds and provide shade in the summer.



key stages of historic development

Round Hill is a Victorian inner suburb located close to the city centre with good links to the universities, Lewes, surrounding countryside and rail links to London.

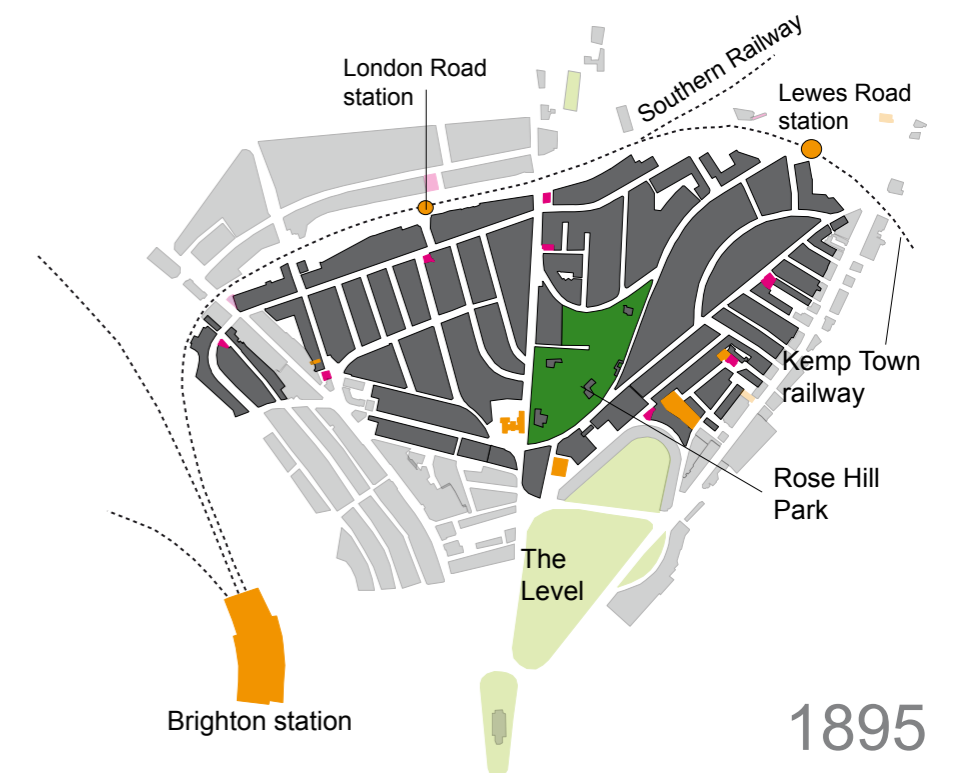
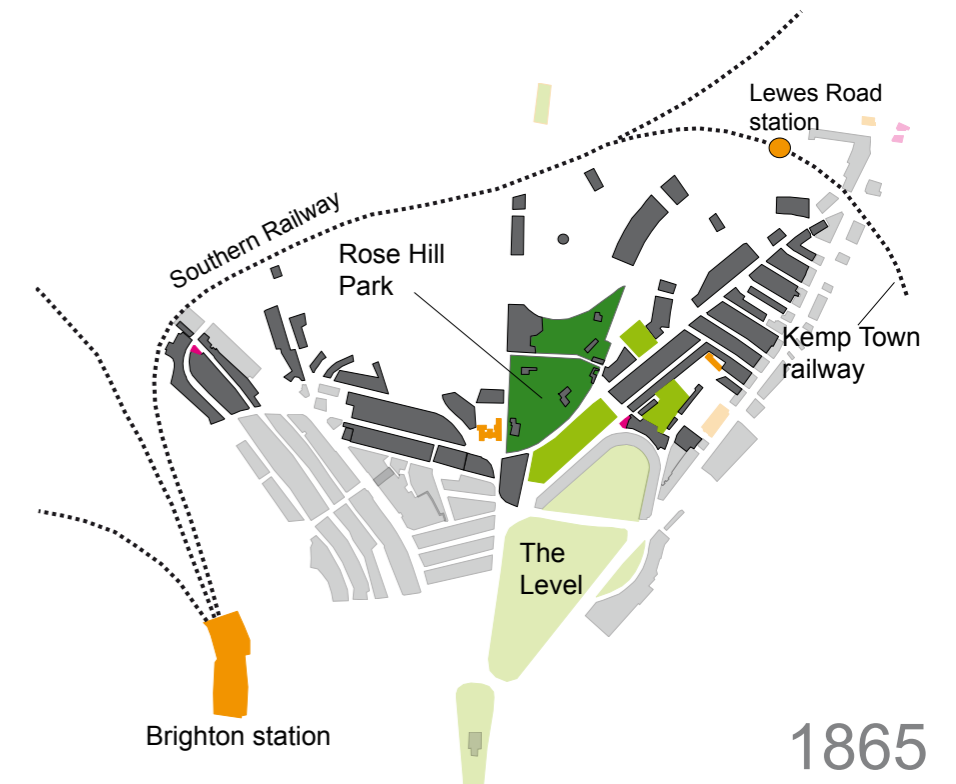
Before the 1860s the neighbourhood was sparsely populated, but developed rapidly during the second half of the 19th century. Roundhill Crescent and Richmond Road were developed from the 1860s as middle class housing. Some examples are now listed buildings. With the building of the Southern and Kemp Town railways, mid-Victorian suburbs began to grow up around the London Road and Lewes Road stations.

The size and scale of the houses varies from street to street. A prime location was in and around Rose Hill Park. This open space offered impressive views over the city towards the sea with St. Peter's church as an important landmark. Rose Hill Park now accommodates blocks of moderately sized flats.

typology

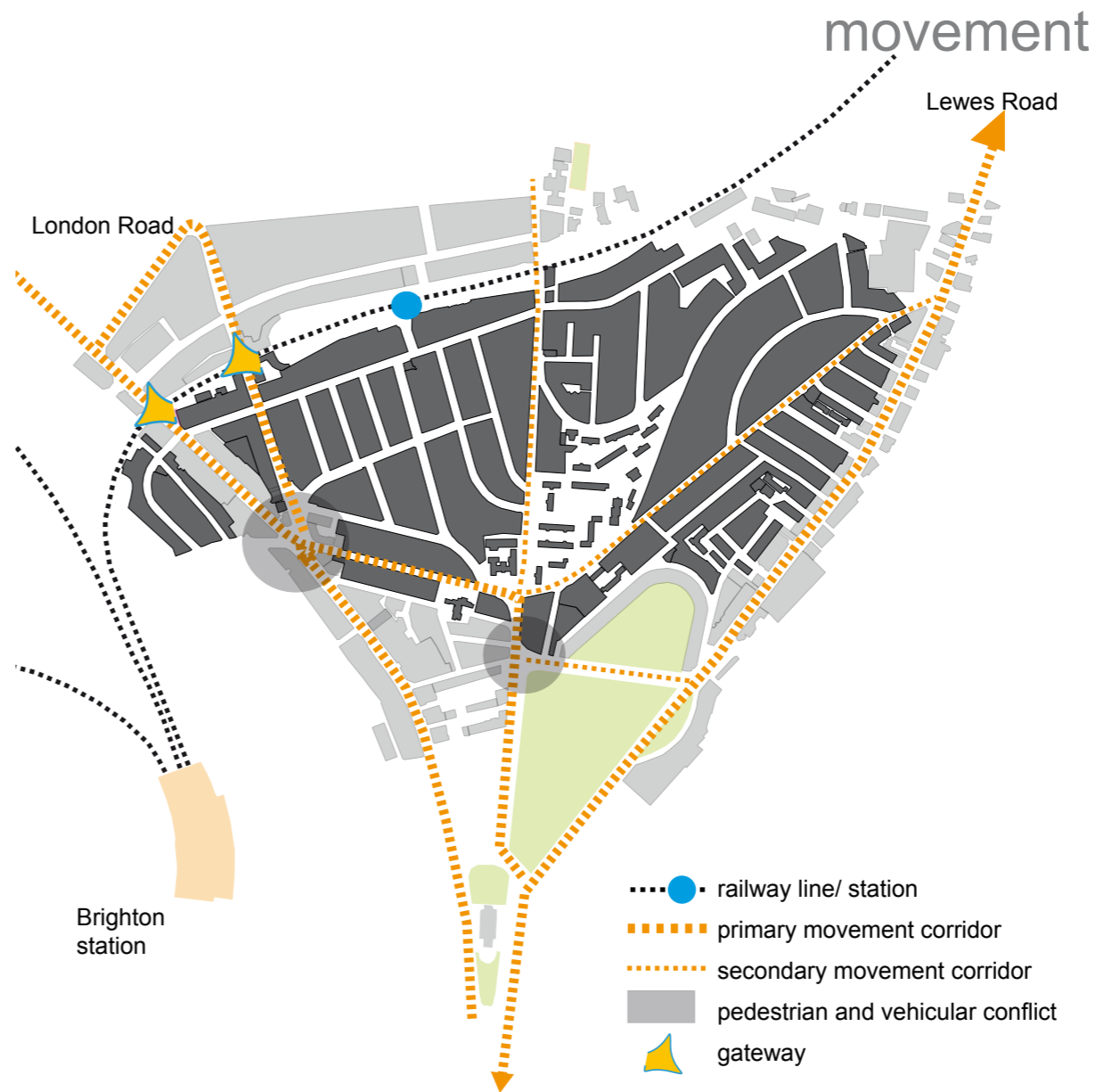
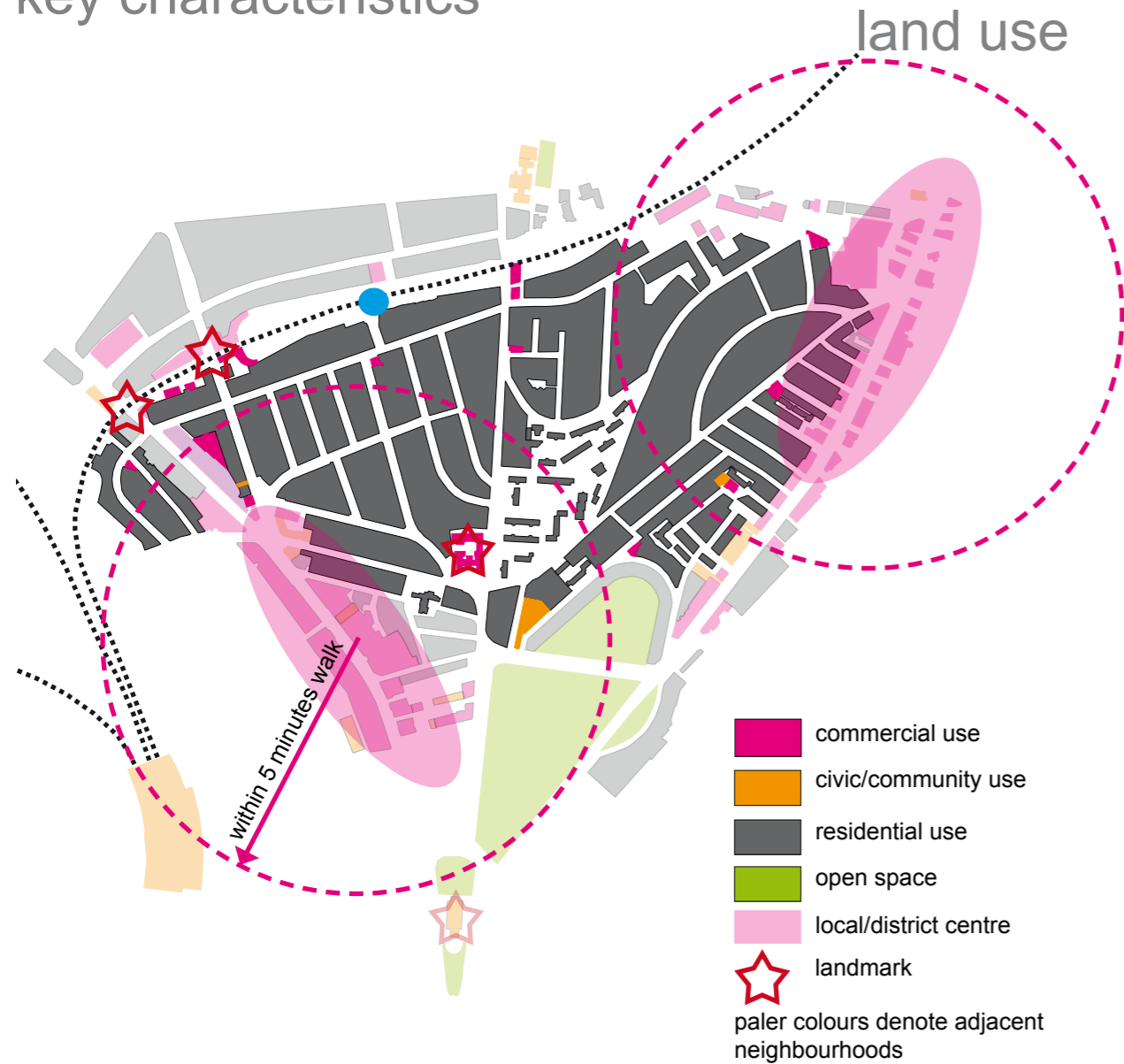
Round Hill neighbourhood may be classified as an urban pre-1914 residential inner suburb whose street pattern, architecture and character have been well preserved. Many large houses converted to flats. Good quality urban environment with tree-lined streets and close to popular parks. Strong sense of place.

Refer to the introduction and summary for more information on landscape character types.



21 round hill neighbourhood

key characteristics



• **Land use:** Round Hill neighbourhood is a mainly private residential area with commercial uses concentrated close to the railway line to the north. Retail and community uses are dotted around the area. There is a landmark commercial development at the core. Much of the area is, however, more than five minutes walking distance from a local centre.

• **Scale and Density:** The neighbourhood is characterised by two to four storey terraced housing. Many of the terraces have been converted into flats resulting in a relatively high gross density of 62 dwellings per hectare (see appendix 1). The terraces are arranged over a strong urban pattern so that road infrastructure is kept to a minimum compared to developed land but allows a variety of routes through the neighbourhood.

• **Architecture:** The neighbourhood is characterised by mid to late Victorian terraces with some large semi-detached villas. Laid out with a distinctive urban street pattern, with regular setbacks of small front gardens or terraces directly addressing the pavement, there is a strong building line. There is a consistency in architecture and building height as the neighbourhood developed over a short period of time. All these factors help to create a neighbourhood with a strong identity. This is only marred by some insensitive infill that has taken place over

subsequent years. The public realm merits improvement.

The viaduct is an important landmark on the edge the neighbourhood, rising above the terraces and sweeping around its northern boundary. The viaduct serves as a literal gateway from Brighton's suburbs into the more dense city development.

• **Movement:** The neighbourhood sits on a rising hillside between Lewes Road and London Road with the railway line to Lewes running along its northern boundary. Most vehicular activity is located along the boundaries of the neighbourhood, leaving the streets of Round Hill predominately quiet during the day. Many people do use their car to travel to work, however almost the same percentage travel to work on foot. This reflects the neighbourhood's close proximity to the city centre and local hubs of activity. Only 5% of people cycled to work in 2001, which may be due to the local topography (see appendix 2). Some traffic calming measures have been introduced since then which are expected to result in increased cycle use.

• **Socio-economic characteristics:** The high proportion of terraces and converted flats attract a high number of young professionals. Almost half the local population are students,



Viaduct: landmark and gateway



Community landmark



Views out afforded by the slopes



Corner shops are a feature

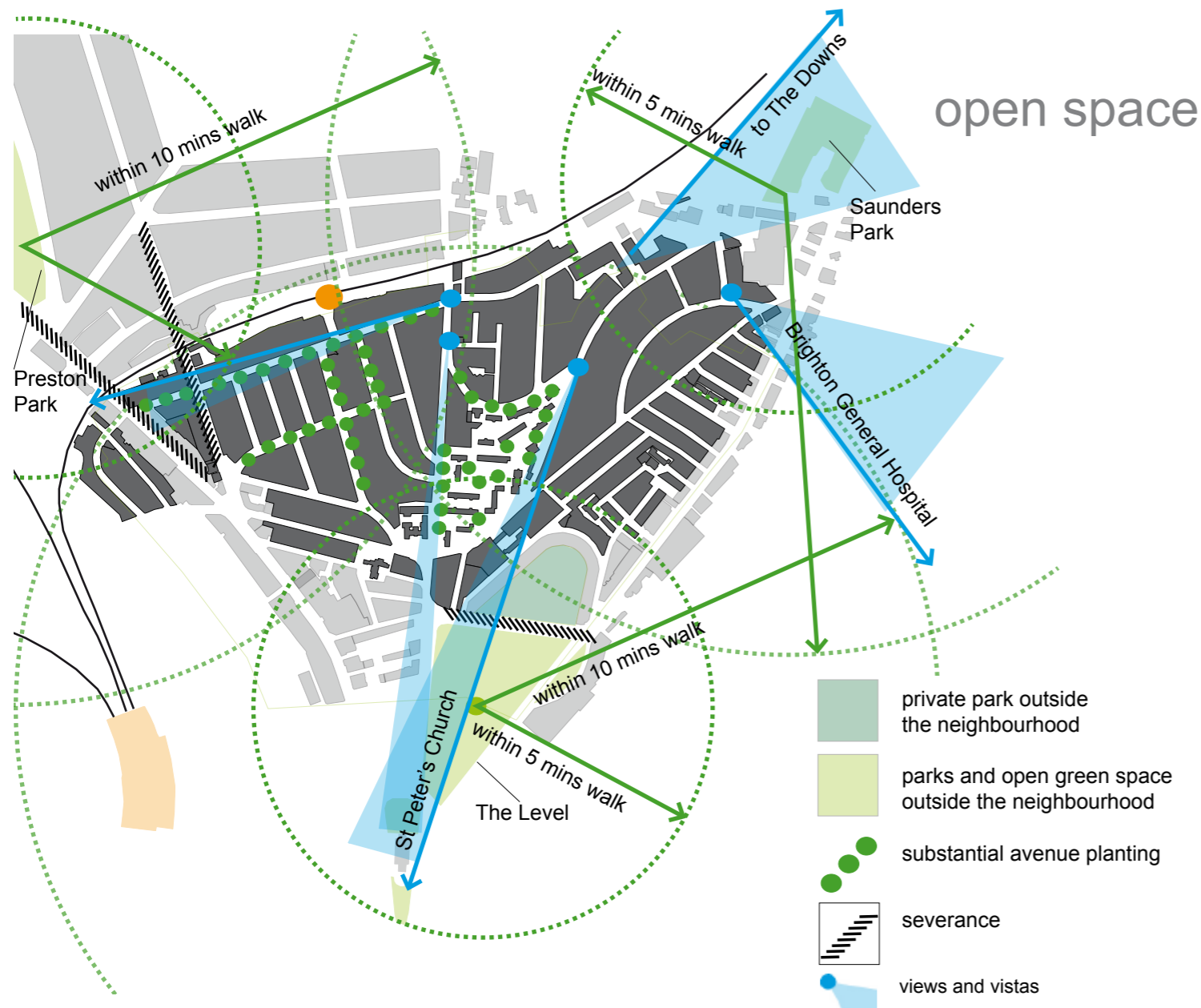


Decorative ironwork

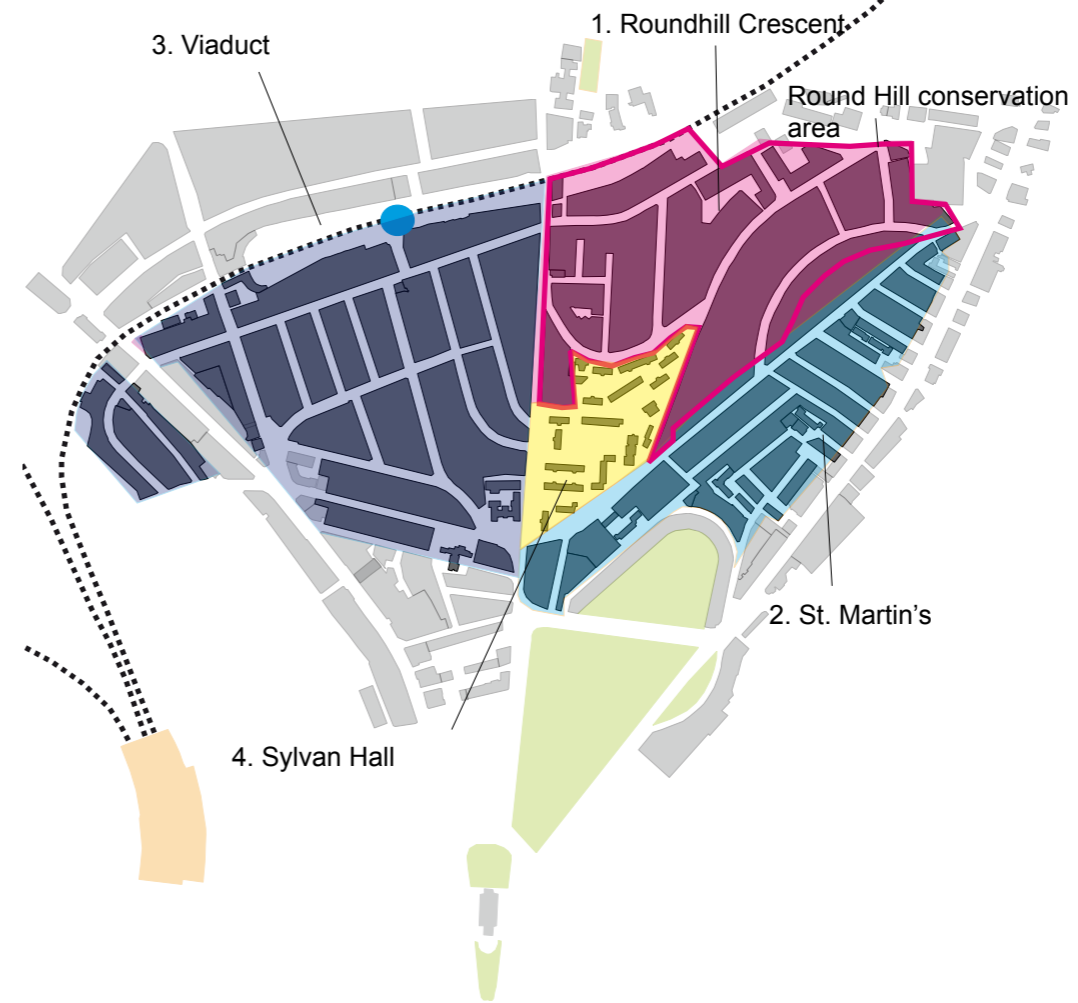


Terraces with a view

21 round hill neighbourhood



character areas



Mature street trees



Tree competing with car parking



Roundhill Crescent character area



St. Martin's character area



Viaduct character area



Sylvan Hall character area

attracted to the privately rented accommodation within the smaller terraces and its good connections to the universities and city centre.

• **Open Space:** The neighbourhood's topography, as suggested by its name, affords good views out towards the Downs and back towards the sea and to local landmarks. There is no public open space within the neighbourhood itself. The Level, Saunders Park and Preston Park are all within 10 minutes walk for most residents. Heavy traffic along Union Road, the Vogue Gyratory and London Road means that green open space and play space are hard to access for children. Saunders Park is not overlooked, and has been identified as a crime hot spot. The Level appears to be capable of greater use. One explanation for this could be that the heavy traffic on all sides of The Level severs it from surrounding neighbourhoods.

Many of the streets within the neighbourhood accommodate mature trees. Elm, horse chestnut, london plane and lime trees provide visual interest and ecological value. Interesting details within the public realm include elevated pavements and period railings. However, there are many different paving surfaces, trees fight for space within the street

and excessive signage clutters the streetscene.

• **Character areas:** There are four character areas within the Round Hill neighbourhood. These are defined by scale and topography which create either open or enclosed visual envelopes.

1. Roundhill Crescent: an historic residential area that follows the steep contours of the slope up to the ridgeline, giving long views over the city. Medium to high density with a mix of scale. Predominantly Victorian, ranging from grand four storey converted houses to small two storey houses.

2. St. Martin's: a high density residential area of plain narrow terraced streets in a grid pattern on flat ground on the valley floor. Small two storey Victorian houses with St Martin's Church as a landmark. A strong sense of identity.

3. Viaduct: a medium high density residential area of generous tree-lined terraced streets in a grid pattern on rising ground. Mainly two storey Victorian houses, with the viaduct as a dominant landmark. A strong sense of identity.

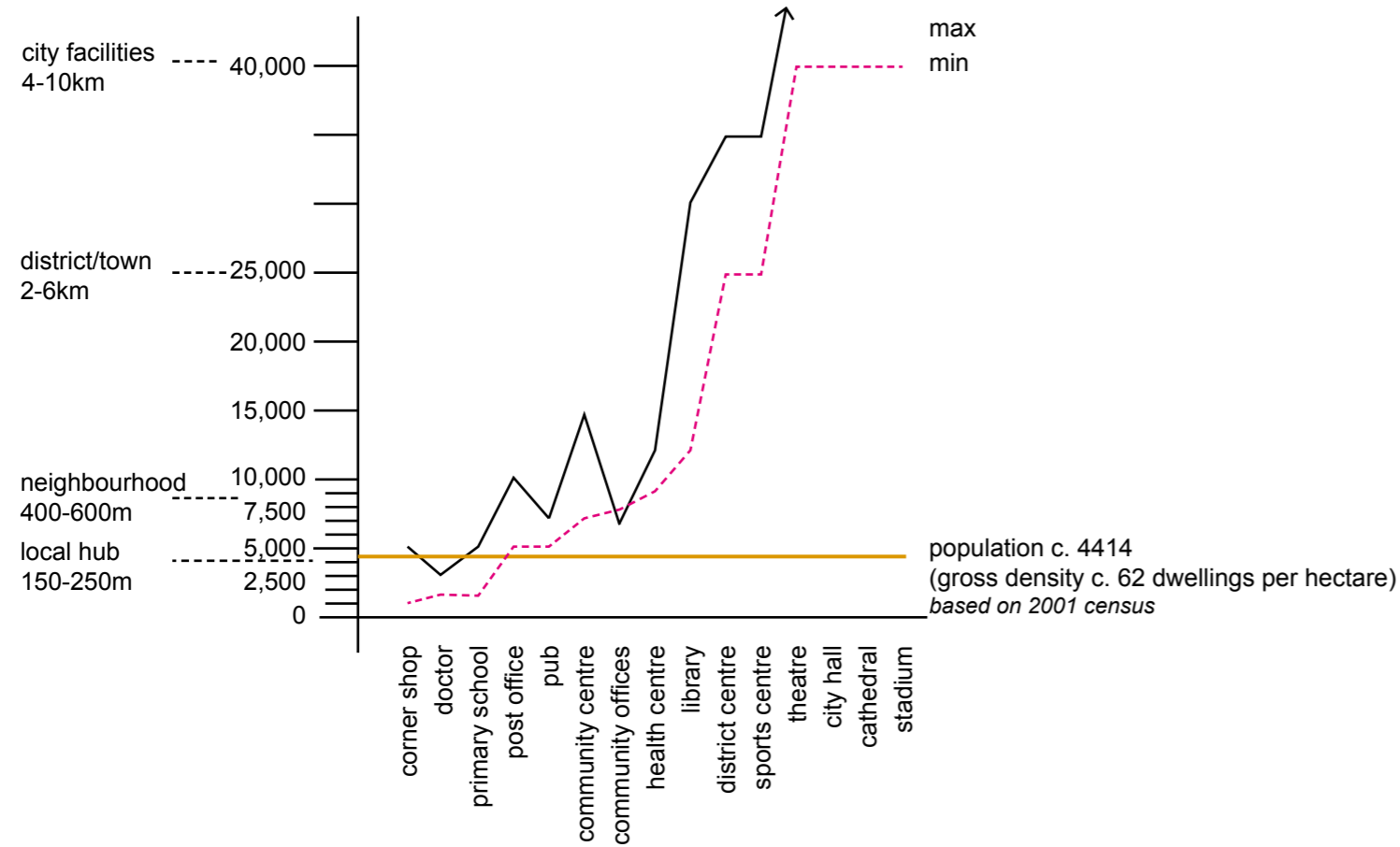
4. Sylvan Hall: a significant area of low rise 1960s blocks of flats in a green space, built by the local authority.

21 round hill neighbourhood

appendix 1: population & density

Population numbers able to support community facilities.

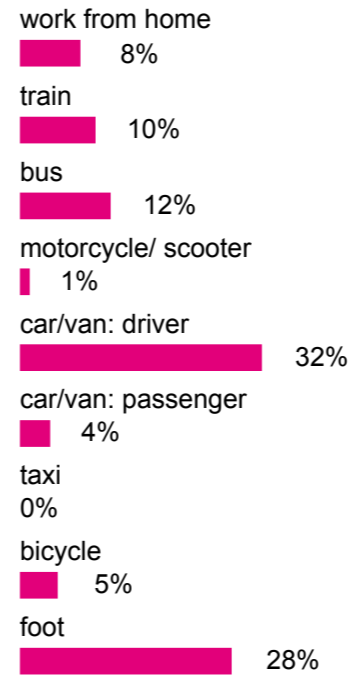
Source: Towards an Urban Renaissance, 2002



appendix 2: travel to work

Statistics illustrating methods of travel to work.

Source: City Stats, Census 2001

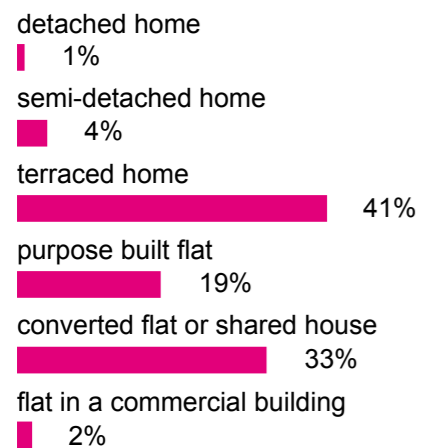


The information from the 2001 census and the Acorn profiles were based on the best fit of the smallest enumeration districts. This was obtained from Citystats website, which is now www.bhlis.org

See pages 8 and 11 for city-wide comparisons and more information

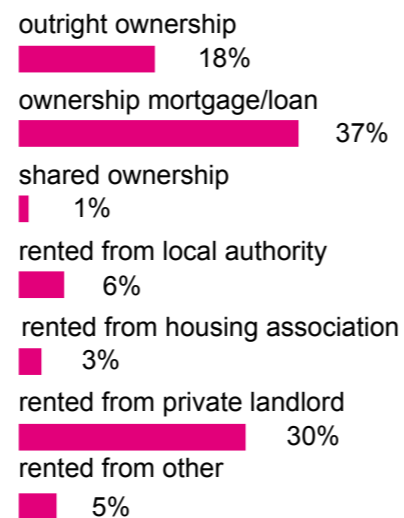
appendix 3: social mix accommodation types

Source: City Stats, Census 2001



tenure types

Source: City Stats, Census 2001



demographic types

Source: City Stats, Acorn data

