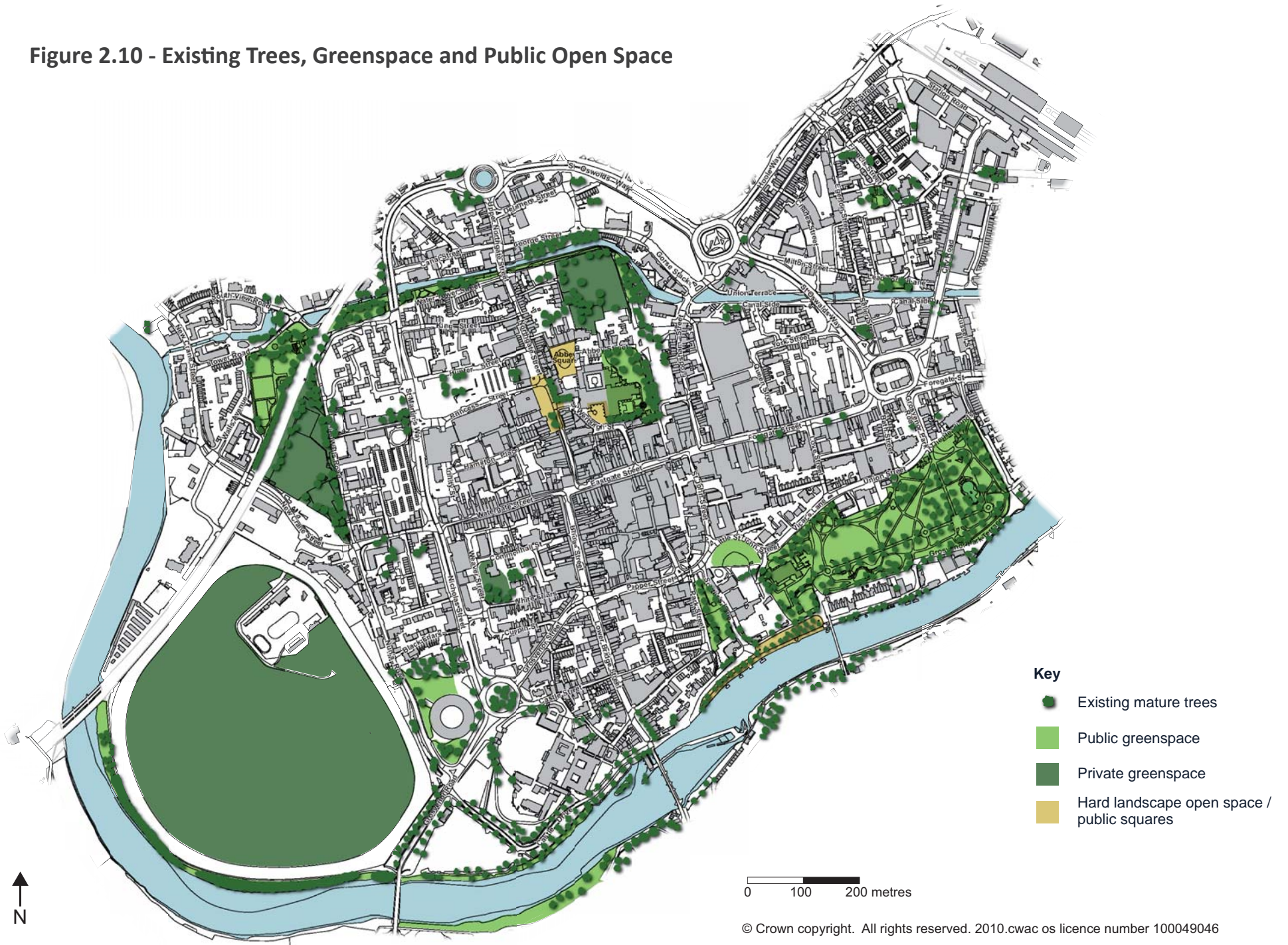


Figure 2.10 - Existing Trees, Greenspace and Public Open Space



## Existing Public Realm Context

# 2.8 ~ Trees, Greenspace and Public Open Space

Generally, trees and greenspaces in Chester are concentrated along the river, city walls and canal. Further detail on existing trees in the city centre is provided in Part 7, Section 7.6 – Trees and Ornamental Planting.

### Public Greenspaces

Within and immediately adjacent to the study area are the following key public green spaces:

Within city centre:

- Grosvenor Park – This is the city centre’s principal park and its design and layout dates from the Victorian era. The park contains areas of formal planting and avenues, a miniature railway, children’s play area and lake. The park provides pedestrian links with The Groves riverside. The council has developed proposals for the restoration and development of the park and are currently seeking funding.
- Water Tower Gardens – Focused around the water tower on the city walls, this space contains a multi-use games area, two bowling greens and a maze seating area.
- Cathedral Grounds – A small, but important space at the heart of the urban core. The grounds contain various small memorial spaces/gardens, with trees, bedding plants and seating, as well as a more extensive grassed area viewed from the city walls.

- Roman Gardens – A linear greenspace running adjacent to the city walls and providing a pedestrian link between The Roman Amphitheatre and The Groves riverside. As well as seating and areas of planting, the space contains roman relics, which are interpreted using a series of interpretation panels.



Cathedral Gardens

Adjacent to city centre:

- Edgar’s Field – Adjacent to the southern boundary of the study area, this riverside greenspace can be accessed via the Old Dee Bridge and contains a small children’s play area and the site of Minerva’s shrine. The council are currently developing proposals for the interpretation of the shrine.
- The Cop – Adjacent to the northwest corner of the study area this riverside greenspace contains a youth area and serves the residential area to the north.
- The Meadows - Adjacent to the southeast corner of the study area and accessed via the suspension bridge on The Groves, this informal and naturalistic riverside greenspace provides links to the wider greenspace and footpath network along the River Dee.
- The riverside promenade trail runs around the outer edge of the Roodee with occasional seating areas. This promenade can be considered as a linear green route running from The Old Dee Bridge to New Crane Street.
- A series of linear public greenspaces are also found between the northern edge of the city walls and the canal. Some of these spaces contain artworks, as well as links between the walls and canal.



### Private Greenspaces

Private greenspaces include the Roodee, The Queen’s School sports grounds and The Dean’s Field. The Roodee racecourse does have an inside track that runs the circuit of the racecourse and can be used by walkers/runners.

### Trees

Like the greenspaces, existing mature trees are concentrated along the riverside and city walls. As a result of the close grained historic street layout, there are very few street trees in the city centre.

### Hard Landscaped Open Space/Public Squares

Chester city centre’s historic street network contains very few hard landscaped spaces or squares. The Town Hall Square is found at the broadened section of Northgate Street in front of the Town Hall. This represents Chester’s principal civic space and is used for seasonal markets and events.

Abbey Square forms part of the Cathedral’s complex and is an attractive and formal Georgian square. Apart from its use by building occupiers, this is a space that attracts visitors exploring and locals using it as a through route between the Town Hall and the walls/Frodsham Street.

The Groves is a Victorian riverside promenade found south of the Roman Gardens and Grosvenor Park. The broad linear space contains a bandstand where visitors gather for performances. This use is supported by refreshment stands and nearby cafes. Riverside boat trips run from The Groves.



Grosvenor Park



The Groves Riverside

### Relevance to the PRDG

The following bullet points summarise the key points relating to trees, greenspace and public open space, which are to be addressed in the PRDG.

- A limited number of trees are found within the city centre streets. Selective tree planting could be used to improve the appearance of less attractive streets and gateways.
- Existing greenspace should be protected and enhanced as tourist destinations in their own right and potential event spaces. This would also support the ‘Green Moat’ concept to create a green setting to the City Walls.
- Need to enhance pedestrian links and vistas through Grosvenor Park, Roman Gardens and Water Tower Gardens to strengthen connections between the city centre and river/canal.
- Develop opportunities for additional hard landscape spaces/squares to punctuate streets and provide opportunities for events.





Chester's riverside greenspaces