

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL
DATE 16 MARCH 2026**

Officer: Helen Ball (Town Clerk)

QUARRY CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Purpose of Report

To update Members on the progress made in commissioning and initiating the development of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Quarry Park.

Background

Quarry Park is one of the town's most significant historic and environmental assets, attracting both residents and visitors and forming an important part of the town's heritage and green infrastructure.

In recognition of its historic, cultural, and ecological importance, the Council agreed to commission a Conservation Management Plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide a strategic framework to guide the long-term protection, conservation, and management of Quarry Park, ensuring that its historic character, landscape quality, and biodiversity are preserved while continuing to support public use and enjoyment.

The plan will also provide a clear evidence base to support future funding opportunities and capital investment, including potential external grants for heritage and environmental improvements.

Appointment of Consultants

Following a procurement process, Camlins were appointed to undertake the preparation of the Conservation Management Plan.

Camlins have significant experience in the preparation of heritage landscape strategies and conservation plans for historic parks and public spaces. Crucially Camlins and their partner consultants are all based in Shrewsbury, have first hand knowledge of the Park and are excited by undertaking a comprehensive piece of work in their home town.

The commission will run for 12 months and will involve:

- A comprehensive assessment of the historic, environmental, and landscape significance of Quarry Park.

- Review of existing documentation, historic records, and management practices.
- Site surveys and analysis of landscape, heritage, and ecological features.
- Engagement with stakeholders, user groups, and the local community.
- Development of conservation policies and management recommendations.
- Preparation of a final Conservation Management Plan to guide future decision-making.

Project Inception

An inception meeting was held on 5 March 2026 between Council officers and the Camlins project team.

The purpose of the meeting was to formally commence the project and to confirm key elements of the commission, including:

- The scope and objectives of the Conservation Management Plan.
- Review of existing information and baseline data relating to Quarry Park.
- Development of a detailed list of stakeholders to engage with
- Agreement on project governance and communication arrangements.
- Confirmation of a detailed timetable of activity for the duration of the project.

The meeting marked the formal start of the commission and established a collaborative working arrangement between the Council and the consultants.

Project Programme

A programme of work has now been agreed for the 12-month commission. The main stages of the project will include:

Stage 1 – Evidence Gathering and Research

- Historic research and review of archival material
- Landscape and heritage assessment
- Ecological and environmental review

Stage 2 – Site Analysis

- Detailed site surveys
- Identification of key landscape features and heritage assets
- Assessment of current management practices

Stage 3 – Stakeholder Engagement

- Engagement with Council Members, local organisations, and user groups
- Opportunities for wider community input

Stage 4 – Draft Conservation Management Plan

- Preparation of draft policies and management recommendations
- Review and feedback from the Council and stakeholders

Stage 5 – Final Plan

- Completion of the final Conservation Management Plan

- Presentation of findings and recommendations to the Council.

Next Steps

Over the coming months, Camlins will begin the research and evidence-gathering phase of the project, including site visits, analysis of existing documentation, and initial stakeholder engagement.

Further updates will be brought to Members as the project progresses, particularly at key milestones during the development of the draft Conservation Management Plan.

Financial Implications

The cost of commissioning the Conservation Management Plan has been provided for within the Council's approved budget.

Environmental and Community Impact

The Conservation Management Plan will support the sustainable management and protection of Quarry Park, helping to safeguard its environmental quality, biodiversity, historic landscape character, and recreational value for future generations.

Risk Implications

The development of a Conservation Management Plan will help reduce risks associated with the loss of heritage value, unsympathetic development, or lack of strategic management, by providing a clear framework for decision-making.

Conclusion

The appointment of Camlins and the successful inception meeting on 5 March 2026 mark an important step in the development of a long-term strategy for the conservation and management of Quarry Park. The agreed programme of work will ensure a thorough assessment of the park's heritage and environmental significance, leading to a comprehensive Conservation Management Plan to guide future management and investment.

RECOMMEDATION

That:

- (i) The report be noted**
- (ii) The Project Plan as outlined be approved**