

69580 – Land and buildings at Murray Road/2-10 Princess Parade/47-51 Market Street & Bury Market, Bury

Thank you for consulting GMAAS on this application.

The application is supported by a Heritage Statement compiled by Purcells (March 2023), which provides a brief account of the historical context of the site and its development and outlines the impacts of the proposed development on the nearby Bury Town Centre Conservation Area, with particular focus on the significance of the Grade II Listed Kay Monument. The three buildings proposed for demolition within the site boundary are given cursory treatment within the HS, referred to only as buildings from the “mid-late 20th century, none of which are of any architectural or historic interest”. GMAAS concur with these comments and would add that there is little research benefit or potential for knowledge gain that would result from a scheme of recording works.

GMAAS reserve any further comment on the impact of the proposals on built heritage, inclusive of the setting within the wider study area, as this will be dealt with by the Conservation Officer for Bury Council.

With regard to below-ground archaeological potential, this does not seem to have been assessed in any of the supporting application material. The extant 20th century red-brick casino building (proposed for demolition), dates to the late 1980s, and is built on the former footprint of the Theatre Royal and Opera House (opened 1889, then modernised in the early 20th century for use as a cinema under various names through to its demolition in 1985). The scale of the modern casino is similar to the former Theatre and it is likely that all foundations of the earlier building were removed to make way for the new construction. Elsewhere across the proposed development site there are few targets of archaeological potential or significance.

On this basis there is no reason to seek to impose any archaeological requirements upon the applicant.

GM Archaeological Advisory Service