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Castleblayney dig for Disappeared

By Andrea McKernon

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FORENSIC experts have visited a site in Co Monaghan which could lead to a new dig in the search for the remains of one of the Disappeared, The Irish News has learned.

It is understood that “scientific work” has been carried out on an area outside Castleblayney, near the shores of Lough Muckno, after a map – believed to show the secret grave of Crossmaglen man Gerard Evans – was passed onto the Independent Commission for the Location of Victims' Remains.

The map was passed to the commission after it was sent anonymously to an aunt of Mr Evans earlier this year with a message saying: “This is where I believe Gerry to be buried. I hope this helps and God bless you all.”

The latest operation follows the recent recovery in the Ballynultagh area of Co Wicklow of the remains of west Belfast man, Danny McIlhone who was abducted and killed by the IRA in 1981.

The family of Mr McIlhone, who was 19 when he went missing, are hopeful that results from DNA tests in the coming weeks will reveal the remains to be those of their loved one.


Mr Evans, a native of Crossmaglen, was aged 24 when he vanished after leaving a bar in Castleblayney to hitch a lift to his home in 1979.

The latest investigation is being lead by forensic expert Geoff Knupfer who located the child victim remains of Moors murderers Ian Brady and Myra Hindley.

The commission declined to comment on the latest developments saying: “The commission is looking to take forward work on all the Disappeared.”

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