

“More Work Will Be Done To Find Brendan Megraw” Says ‘Disappeared’ Commission.

What has been described as a ‘geophysical survey’ will be carried out on land not previously searched on the bog at Oristown Co Meath where it is thought that Brendan Megraw who was abducted and murdered by the IRA in 1978 was secretly buried.

The Independent Commission for the Location of Victims Remains (ICLVR) the body set up jointly by the British and Irish Governments to recover the remains of the Disappeared said that it is hoped that the work will commence ‘in the coming days’.

There have been three unsuccessful searches for Brendan the most recent in 2010.

Geoff Knupfer the lead forensic scientist and investigator with the ICLVR said:

“We will carry out an initial survey of ground that is on the site where we think Brendan could be buried but has not previously been analysed.

This will involve a team of forensic archeologists using ground penetrating radar to try to identify anomalies beneath the surface that may warrant further investigation and a fresh search”.

The ICLVR is acknowledged as a world leader in the search and recovery of human remains from bogland.

To date over 4.0 hectares (approximately 10 acres) of the Oristown bog have been searched with a further 2.5 hectares (approximately 5.5 acres) to be covered by the new survey.

In terms of what is behind this new activity at Oristown, Mr Knupfer said:

“The ICLVR does not carry out speculative operations. We are entirely information-led. The crucial point is that all information that comes to the ICLVR is held in complete confidence and can only be used for the purposes of the recovery of remains so that they can be restored to their families for a Christian burial. It is never under any circumstances shared with any other agency”.

Last September the Bishop of Meath, Dr. Michael Smith lead prayers for the Disappeared at the site at Oristown and appealed for fresh information. Over 100 local people attended the ceremony.

Mr Knupfer concluded:

“No one, least of all Brendan’s family, is under any illusion that this is anything other than a huge task. But, with the right information, we are confident that we can find Brendan”.

Anyone with information on any of the Disappeared should contact the ICLVR on 00800 555 85500, by writing to ICLVR, PO Box 10827, Dublin 2. or via the website www.iclvr.ie".

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