



# Document 1: Loch Ness Monster Photographs





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<https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/tetrapod-zoology/files/2013/07/Loch-Ness-Monster-Shiels-muppet-photo-small-version-300-px-tiny-july-2013.jpg>



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# Document 2

## NESSIE UNCOVERED

### Is the Loch Ness Monster real? Nessie sightings, pictures, facts, theories – and where to try and spot the creature

TAKEN FROM:

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/2086120/loch-ness-monster-real-sightings-pictures-theories/>

There have been countless 'sightings' of the legendary creature, with many exposed as hoaxes - but what is the truth?

By David Hughes

Updated: 23rd June 2017, 9:26 am

**THE mystery of the Loch Ness Monster has fuelled conspiracy theorists, baffled scientists and inspired TV shows and films for decades.**

A spate of convincing sightings has left the world asking: 'is there really a monster lurking in the deep?'



GETTY IMAGES The 'surgeon's photograph' fooled people for 40 years before it was debunked

#### **What are the origins of the Loch Ness monster story?**

Nessie was first 'spotted' back in 565 – a biography of Irish monk Saint Columba mentions a giant 'water beast' dragging a man to his death in Scotland's River Ness.

However, wider interest in the monster was not sparked until 1933 after a road was built along the loch, making it far less isolated. Within months,

several people came forward claiming to have seen a giant beast lurking near the water.

The following year saw the publication of the 'surgeon's photograph', probably the best-known image of the creature. In 1975 the famous shot was exposed as a hoax, made using a toy submarine with a carved monster's head.

There have now been over 1,000 reported sightings, and as the legend gathered popularity Nessie became the subject of a host of documentaries and feature films. The Scooby Doo gang tried to solve the mystery in a 2004 cartoon, while Ted Danson starred in the 1996 family drama Loch Ness.

Many scientists have tried to prove (or indeed quash) the existence of the monster. In 2003, the BBC conducted the largest ever search for Nessie, using 600 sonar beams and satellite tracking to explore the loch – but the researchers found nothing.

### When were the most famous sightings?

Nobody has yet proved that the Loch Ness Monster is real – but that certainly hasn't stopped people trying.

Many pictures claiming to show Nessie have been exposed as pranks, with others explained away as a case of mistaken identity.

The 'surgeon's photograph', snapped by Colonel Robert Wilson in 1934, is probably the most famous Nessie sighting ever. It was later exposed to be a hoax.



THE LATEST PHOTOGRAPH OF THE LOCH NESS "MONSTER," AFTER AN INTERVAL DURING WHICH IT HAD NOT BEEN SEEN FOR SOME CONSIDERABLE TIME: AN ENLARGEMENT OF A PICTURE TAKEN RECENTLY BY A VISITOR ON HOLIDAY AT FORT AUGUSTUS.

ALAMY tourist's photo of Nessie taken from Fort Augustus in 1934

Wilson's snap ignited curiosity around the Loch Ness Monster and led to a spate of 'sightings', such as this picture taken from Fort Augustus on the loch's southern tip.



### CASCADE NEWS

George Edwards later admitted his picture of the monster had been faked

George Edwards took this stunning picture of Loch Ness in 2012, claiming that he had finally found definitive proof of the giant creature's existence.

A year later, the boat skipper admitted he had made the whole thing up. The image was created with a fake fibreglass model of Nessie from a National Geographic documentary, and Edwards had even let many of the tourists he ferries around the loch in on his prank.

APPLE The Apple Maps satellite image of Nessie – or is it a boat?

In 2014, a satellite photo on the Apple Maps app seemingly showed a 100ft shape swimming in the loch.

The mysterious outline sparked renewed interest in Nessie after a lull of several years, with the Official Loch Ness Monster Fan Club claiming it was 'likely' to be the camera-shy monster. However, experts insisted it was merely a boat and its wake.



Does Ian Bremner's photo show the Loch Ness Monster?

In September this year, amateur photographer Ian Bremner took this photo from the banks of the loch. His friends claimed it showed three seals playing together, but the whisky warehouse worker suggested it 'could be Nessie'.

**Have there been any new sightings?**

Nessie had been 'off the radar' for a worrying while but was spotted on the May bank holiday 2017 – bringing eight months of

uncertainty to an end.

Nessie's official recorder admitted he had been concerned after a dry spell of sightings meant not one person had claimed to see the beast since August last year.

But tourist, Hayley Johnson from Manchester saw a strange and dark shape at dusk in the loch's Urquhart Bay – a 'favourite haunt' of Nessie.

Hayley's photo..Is that Nessie emerging from the loch's deep waters?

The 28-year-old, a care assistant from Abbey Hey, Manchester, said:"I couldn't believe my eyes.



“Then about half a mile away I saw this dark shape sticking up – like a neck. I thought at first it was a tree, but it was very strange. I took a picture. It was there for a couple of seconds, but when I looked back it was gone. I was shocked.

“I was really excited about Nessie as a child but to be honest I thought Nessie had probably died in the 1930s. I didn’t think she was alive any more. I know now that she is very much alive. I’m just so excited – it’s unbelievable what’s happened.”

### **What theories are there about the real Nessie?**

Many of the theories of what REALLY dwells in Loch Ness are based on people mistaking other large creatures or objects for Nessie.

Sightings have often been dismissed as being large eels and catfish or otters and deer swimming in the water, viewed from long distance.

In 2013, TV presenter Jeremy Wade made a special edition of River Monsters devoted to the legend.

He compared Nessie’s characteristics with the Greenland shark, which grow to 20 feet in length and survive in the fresh waters of the loch.



AP:ASSOCIATED PRESS Could the Greenland shark be the origin of the Loch Ness monster legend?

It has also been claimed that sightings of Nessie are caused by misidentifying inanimate objects – tree trunks, logs and optical effects caused by wind conditions have all been suggested.

One scientific theory put forward to support the traditional idea of the monster’s huge size and appearance is that it is a plesiosaur – a type of giant long-necked reptile that went extinct over 60 million years ago.

While idea was popular when first suggested in the 1930s, scientists have since pointed out a host of reasons that pour cold water on the theory.

Scientist Robert Rines led a series of studies into the loch, ranging from 1972 to 2008. His teams published reports and photos (later debunked) suggesting that Nessie existed, which even led to it being given the scientific name ‘Nessiteras rhombopteryx’ – ‘Ness monster with diamond-shaped fin’.

Eventually, Rines concluded that the creature had become extinct, blaming temperature changes in the loch caused by global warming.

# Document 3

## The Legend of Loch Ness

Taken by: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/ancient/legend-loch-ness.html>

By Stephen Lyons

**"Many a man has been hanged on less evidence than there is for the Loch Ness Monster."  
—G.K. Chesterton**

For at least 1,500 years a legend has held sway in the Scottish Highlands that Loch Ness is home to a mysterious aquatic animal. Find out how this legend got its start and how various possible sightings have kept the legend alive.



This much-debated photo from 1934 may be iconic, but the legend of the Loch Ness Monster dates back to before the Roman invasion of the region. credit: Fortean Pictures Library

### BIRTH OF A LEGEND

When the Romans first came to northern Scotland in the first century A.D., they found the Highlands occupied by fierce, tattoo-covered tribes they called the Picts, or painted people. From the carved, standing stones still found in the region around Loch Ness, it is clear the Picts were fascinated by animals, and careful to render them with great fidelity. All the animals depicted on the Pictish stones are lifelike and easily recognizable—all but one. The exception is a strange beast with an elongated beak or muzzle, a head locket or spout, and flippers instead of feet. Described by some scholars as a swimming elephant, the Pictish beast is the earliest known evidence for an idea that has held sway in the Scottish Highlands for at least 1,500 years—that Loch Ness is home to a mysterious aquatic animal.

In Scottish folklore, large animals have been associated with many bodies of water, from small streams to the largest lakes, often labeled Loch-na-Beistie on old maps. These water-horses, or water-kelpies, are said to have magical powers and malevolent intentions. According to one version of the legend, the water-horse lures small children into the water by offering them rides on its back. Once the children are aboard, their hands become stuck to the beast and they are dragged to a watery death, their livers washing ashore the following day.

The earliest written reference linking such creatures to Loch Ness is in the biography of Saint Columba, the man credited with introducing Christianity to Scotland. In A.D. 565, according to this account, Columba was on his way to visit a Pictish king when he stopped along the shore of Loch Ness. Seeing a large beast about to attack a man who was swimming in the lake, Columba raised his hand, invoking the name of God and commanding the monster to "go back with all speed." The beast complied, and the swimmer was saved.



The Loch Ness Monster has been headline news all over the world for more than 60 years. Photo credit: Daily Mail

When Nicholas Witchell, a future BBC correspondent, researched the history of the legend for his 1974 book *The Loch Ness Story*, he found about a dozen pre-20th-century references to large animals in Loch Ness, gradually shifting in character from these clearly mythical accounts to something more like eyewitness descriptions.

## A 20TH-CENTURY SENSATION

The modern legend of Loch Ness dates from 1933, when a new road was completed along the shore, offering the first clear views of the loch from the northern side. One April afternoon, a local couple was driving home along this road when they spotted "an enormous animal rolling and plunging on the surface." Their account was written up by a correspondent for the *Inverness Courier*, whose editor used the word "monster" to describe the animal. The Loch Ness Monster has been a media phenomenon ever since.

Public interest built gradually during the spring of 1933, then picked up sharply after a couple reported seeing one of the creatures on land, lumbering across the shore road. By October, several London newspapers had sent correspondents to Scotland, and radio programs were being interrupted to bring listeners the latest news from the loch. A British circus offered a reward of £20,000 for the capture of the beast. Hundreds of boy scouts and outdoorsmen arrived, some venturing out in small boats, others setting up deck chairs and waiting expectantly for the monster to appear.

The excitement over the monster reached a fever pitch in December, when the London Daily Mail hired an actor, film director, and big-game hunter named Marmaduke Wetherell to track down the beast. After only a few days at the loch, Wetherell reported finding the fresh footprints of a large, four-toed animal. He estimated it to be 20 feet long. With great fanfare, Wetherell made plaster casts of the footprints and, just before Christmas, sent them off to the Natural History Museum in London for analysis. While the world waited for the museum zoologists to return from holiday, legions of monster hunters descended on Loch Ness, filling the local hotels. Inverness was floodlit for the occasion, and traffic jammed the shoreline roads in both directions.



Big-game hunter Marmaduke Wetherell Photo credit: ABC News

The bubble burst in early January, when museum zoologists announced that the footprints were those of a hippopotamus. They had been made with a stuffed hippo foot—the base of an umbrella stand or ashtray. It wasn't clear whether Wetherell was the perpetrator of the hoax or its gullible victim. Either way, the incident tainted the image of the Loch Ness Monster and discouraged serious investigation of the phenomenon. For the next three decades, most scientists scornfully dismissed reports of strange animals in the loch. Those sightings that weren't outright hoaxes, they said, were the result of optical illusions caused by boat wakes, wind slicks, floating logs, otters, ducks, or swimming deer.

### SAW SOMETHING, THEY DID

Nevertheless, eyewitnesses continued to come forward with accounts of their sightings—more than 4,000 of them, according to Witchell's estimate. Most of the witnesses described a large creature with one or more humps protruding above the surface like the hull of an upturned boat. Others reported seeing a long neck or flippers. What was most remarkable, however, was that many of the eyewitnesses were sober, level-headed people: lawyers and priests, scientists and school teachers, policemen and fishermen—even a Nobel Prize winner.



In the 1950s, a local doctor named Constance Whyte began collecting these eyewitness accounts, along with sketches of what the people had seen, finally publishing them in 1957 as a book entitled *More Than a Legend*. Noting that many of her friends had been subjected to ridicule and contempt, Whyte said her goal in writing the book was "the vindication of

many people of integrity who had reported honestly what they had seen in Loch Ness." (To hear recent personal anecdotes, see [Eyewitness Accounts](#).)

In the 1960s a group of dedicated amateurs formed the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau to keep a constant vigil on the loch. Photo credit: BBC-Tomorrow's World

Whyte's book inspired a new generation of monster hunters, including Tim Dinsdale, who on his first visit to the loch in 1960 took an intriguing film of something moving across the loch—and promptly gave up his career as an aeronautical engineer to devote his life to pursuing the monster. The next year, a group of dedicated amateurs formed the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau, keeping a constant vigil on the loch from an observation post on the northern shore.

But perhaps the most important effect of Whyte's book was to turn the tide of public opinion. Long dismissed as fodder for "silly season" press reports, Nessie was finally considered a subject worthy of serious scientific investigation. In the span of a decade, beginning in 1958, four separate expeditions were launched, first by the BBC, then by three respected British universities: Oxford, Cambridge, and the University of Birmingham. Rather than scanning the surface with binoculars and cameras, as the amateur investigators had, these expeditions came equipped with sonar, a military technology that used sound to search the underwater environment. Though the expeditions found nothing conclusive, in each case the sonar operators detected large, moving underwater objects they could not explain. (To learn how sonar works, see Experiment with Sonar.)



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In 1987, Operation Deep Scan, the most ambitious sonar survey of Loch Ness, found three unexplained underwater targets. credit: North Scene Video

#### HIGH-TECH SEARCHES

The use of technology to search the loch reached a new level in the 1970s, when a series of expeditions was sponsored by the Boston-based Academy of Applied Science, whose members included many technically skilled people with ties to MIT. The

Academy's approach was to set a trap for the monster by combining sonar and underwater photography for the first time. Under the leadership of Robert Rines, a lawyer trained in physics, the team pointed a sophisticated form of sonar, called side scan sonar, out into Loch Ness from a point near the shore. Nearby they placed an underwater camera taking pictures every 45 seconds as a strobe light illuminated the depths with a bright flash. The system paid off one night in 1975. At the same moment the sonar was registering a large, moving object, the underwater camera was taking pictures of an object that looked, after development and computer enhancement, like the flippers of an aquatic creature.

Rines' discovery won the support of two reputable scientists: Harold "Doc" Edgerton, the legendary MIT scientist who had invented side scan sonar and strobe photography; and Sir Peter Scott, one of Britain's most respected naturalists. With Edgerton and Scott behind him, Rines was given an opportunity to present his evidence at a hearing at the House of Commons in London. Never had the possibility of the Loch Ness Monster been taken so seriously.

Almost immediately, however, critics began to raise questions about the evidence. Could the suggestive sonar traces be the result of human error? Had the flipper photos been altered to

improve their appearance? Just as damaging to Rines' case was Peter Scott's bold pronouncement about the identity of the creature. Based on the flipper photos and the eyewitness sightings, Scott concluded that Nessie was a plesiosaur, an ancient reptile that was thought to have gone extinct along with the dinosaurs some 65 million years ago. The idea was just too far-fetched for professional zoologists to take seriously.



This painting by Sir Peter Scott, a respected British naturalist, helped create the popular image of Nessie as an ancient reptile called a plesiosaur. EnlargePhoto credit: Adrian Shrine/Bob Rines

Although zoologists have yet to conduct the full-scale investigation Rines hoped to trigger, the loch continues to yield intriguing sonar hits. In 1987, an expedition called Operation Deep Scan used a flotilla of 20 sonar-equipped boats to sweep the loch with a curtain of sound; the operation yielded three underwater targets that could not be explained. In the early 1990s, the BBC's Nicholas Witchell helped organize Project Urquhart, the first extensive study of the loch's biology and geology. Although they weren't looking for monsters, the expedition's sonar operators detected a large, moving underwater target and followed it for several minutes before losing it. And during the 1997 expedition featured in NOVA's Loch Ness film, Rines and his longtime colleague Charles Wyckoff detected yet another puzzling underwater target. According to the expedition's sonar expert, marine biologist Arne Carr, it was a moving target, appeared to be biological in nature, and was about 15 feet long—the size of a small whale.

#### FAMOUS PHOTO FALSIFIED?



In the 65 years since the birth of the modern legend, dozens of people have come forward with photographs purporting to show the monster. Most were quickly dismissed as either outright frauds or images of ordinary objects mistaken for monsters. But one photo stood above the rest. Taken in 1934, it shows what appears to be the slender neck of an animal rising from the surface of the water. From the moment it was published in the London Daily Mail, it became the very image of the Loch Ness Monster and, for many, the strongest evidence that Nessie actually exists.

The "surgeon's photo," published in 1934, became the very image of the Loch Ness Monster. Photo credit: Fortean Pictures Library

One reason the photograph had such an impact on the Loch Ness legend was that it came from such a credible source. The photo was sold to the Daily Mail by a London physician named R. Kenneth Wilson, who said he had taken the picture when he noticed a commotion in the water as he was driving up from London to photograph birds with a friend near Inverness. Few believed that such a respected doctor could be party to a deception.

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The credibility of the surgeon's photo hinged on its source—a respected London doctor named R. Kenneth Wilson Photo credit: Fortean Pictures Library



But in 1994, 60 years after the photo was first published, newspapers around the world reported the claim that the "surgeon's photo" was a fake, part of an elaborate plot to dupe the Daily Mail. The man behind the story was a former English art teacher named Alastair Boyd, who had become an avid student of Loch Ness lore after he and his wife had had their own sighting of a large animal in the loch in 1979. Years later, a friend of Boyd's named David Martin discovered an old newspaper clipping in which Ian Wetherell (the son of Marmaduke Wetherell of hippo foot fame) claimed the surgeon's photo was a hoax. The article had attracted little attention when it was published in 1975, but two details caught Boyd's eye.

First, Wetherell said the plot had involved a man named Maurice Chambers—the very same man that Dr. Wilson said he had driven up from London to visit in 1934. Second, Wetherell mentioned that the surgeon's photograph included the scenery of Loch Ness in the background. In fact, the familiar Nessie photo includes only the protruding neck and the water around it. Boyd knew that the original photo had included a bit of the far shoreline in the background, because he had rediscovered the uncropped version in the late '80s. But that full photo had been published only once, in 1934. So how could Wetherell have known this detail? "Either he had a very long memory, or he took the picture," Boyd says.



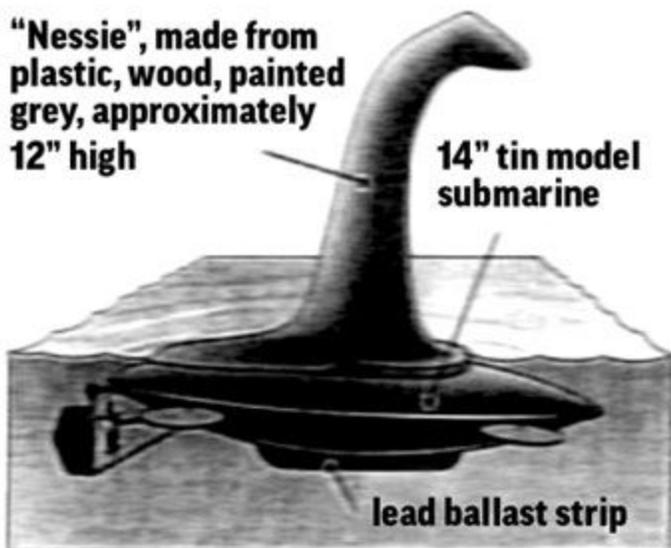
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The full, uncropped surgeon's photo, published only once in 1934, was rediscovered by Boyd more than 50 years later. Photo credit: Fortean Pictures Library

Ian Wetherell had died by the time Boyd and Martin read the article, but they were able to track down his step-brother, Christian Spurling, in the south of England. Spurling, 93 and near death, confessed. Unhappy with the way he was treated by the Daily Mail after the hippo foot fiasco,

Duke Wetherell had set out to get his revenge, enlisting his son and step-son in the plot. First Spurling built a model monster by grafting a head and neck onto the conning tower of a toy submarine. Then Wetherell and his son Ian drove up to the loch and staged the photograph, taking care to include the actual Loch Ness scenery in the background. Finally, to conceal his own role in the hoax, Wetherell persuaded Dr. Wilson, through their common friend Chambers, to have the photo developed and sell it to the Daily Mail as his own. The plot worked better than any of them could have imagined.

Not everyone accepts the Spurling story. American journalist Richard Smith, for example, notes that toy experts question whether the toy submarines of the 1930s could have performed as described, and he wonders why Boyd waited until after Spurling's death to reveal his confession. But in the aftermath of Boyd's 1994 bombshell, most people now believe the surgeon's photo was yet another Loch Ness hoax.



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The 93-year-old stepson of Marmaduke Wetherell told Boyd he made the monster in the picture by grafting a plastic wood neck to a toy submarine. Photo credit: © WGBH Educational Foundation

Does that finally disprove the monster's existence? Not at all, says Boyd. One of the great ironies of the Loch Ness story is that the man who brought down the most famous piece of evidence remains a firm believer in Nessie. "I am so convinced of the reality of these creatures that I would actually stake my life on

their existence," he told NOVA. "I trust my eyesight ... I used to make my living teaching people how to observe, and I know that the thing I saw was not a log or an otter or a wave, or anything like that. It was a large animal. It came heaving out of the water, something like a whale. I mean, the part that was actually on the surface when it stopped rolling through was at least 20 feet long. It was totally extraordinary. It's the most amazing thing I've ever seen in my life, and if I could afford to spend the rest of my life looking for another glimpse of it, I would."

# Document 4

## Why the Loch Ness Monster Probably Doesn't Exist

January 27, 2016 | Joanne Kennell

TAKEN FROM: <http://thescienceexplorer.com/nature/why-loch-ness-monster-probably-doesn-t-exist>



Photo credit: Photo Jeff/Flickr (CC BY-NC 2.0)

**Even so, a little mystery in life is never a bad thing.**

Do you believe that the Loch Ness Monster, Nessie, exists? If you do, you are not alone. There are a lot of people who believe the creature lurks in the depths of Scotland's Loch Ness, and there have been several sightings of the beast to boot.

Many people will argue that there is no way Nessie could exist because we would have found her by now. However, that is not necessarily true — humans have discovered less than 15 percent of the creatures that live on the planet, with most of the mystery lying in the lakes and oceans.

Speculation of the monster's existence has once again been stirred up when a tour boat operator at Loch Ness and retired fisherman, Keith Stewart, claimed to have discovered the lake's deepest trench — a possible hiding place for the elusive Nessie. If Stewart's reading is confirmed, the deepest point of the Loch would now be 889 feet, instead of 754 — a significant difference!

However, people have been searching for Nessie for over 70 years, without much luck, and possibly for one particular reason — she doesn't exist. Although I am completely open-minded and would actually prefer it that Nessie be real, here are a few reasons why she probably doesn't exist.

## **Not One Convincing Sighting**

There have been several monster sightings around Loch Ness. For example, in 1852 villagers charged with pitchforks to battle a "sea serpent," however it turned out to be a horse taking a bath. In 1933, George Spicer said he saw the monster carrying a lamb in its mouth. But with no proof, the report is considered highly unreliable. Even more, besides hoaxes, no one has ever produced a real photograph of Nessie.

## **No Bones of Ancestors**

Cryptozoologists have a theory that Nessie is actually a surviving plesiosaur — a marine reptile that swam in the water and is believed to have gone extinct 65 million years ago. However, no plesiosaur bones have been found in Loch Ness. Dredging and sonar scans have both failed to locate any Nessie fossils.

## **Loch Ness Would Not Be Big Enough to Sustain Nessie**

For Nessie to have survived for this long, there would have to be at least dozens, if not hundreds of them, to maintain a healthy breeding population. Although the Loch Ness monster is not overly large (size ranging from a small car to a school bus), with so many living in the lake, you would expect them to be seen way more often. Let's be serious, they can't all be hiding all at once, can they?

Also, the lake also does not hold enough fish to sustain a population of Nessies — they would starve.

## **Loch Ness is Too Cold**

Nessie has most often been described as a reptile, however earlier reports describe her as seal-like. Nevertheless, Loch Ness is not a suitable habitat for a reptile — the water is just too cold.

Now if Nessie were warm-blooded, like a seal, she would be a creature completely different from anything in the fossil record. Not impossible, but highly unlikely.

## **Loch Ness Used to Be Ice-Covered**

Loch Ness was covered in a ice a mile-thick until very recently, meaning Nessie would have had to arrive just 20,000 years ago. She could have originally lived in the Atlantic Ocean and migrated to the Loch, however she would have had to swim through extremely cold and a somewhat shallow river to even make it to Loch Ness.

The myth, or not myth of the Loch Ness monster will more than likely continue to live on for a long time, especially if deep trenches keep being discovered. No matter the case, it is a great icon and tourist attraction for the country of Scotland. Plus, a little mystery in life is never a bad thing, otherwise life would just be really predictable and boring.

# Document 5

## Loch Ness Monster: 50 fascinating facts

TAKEN FROM:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/united-kingdom/scotland/articles/Loch-Ness-Monster-50-fascinating-facts/>

21 APRIL 2015

- 1. Robert Kenneth Wilson, a London physician, captured arguably the most famous image of the Loch Ness Monster, the Surgeon's Photograph (shown above). It was published in the Daily Mail on April 21, 1934, and the anniversary inspired today's Google Doodle.**
- 2. Mr Wilson didn't want his name associated with the picture, which explains its nickname the "Surgeon's Photograph".**
- 3. The Sunday Telegraph outed the Surgeon's Photograph as a fake on December 7, 1975.**
- 4. *Nessie – the Surgeon's Photograph Exposed*, a 1999 book, explains that the hoax was accomplished using a toy submarine purchased from Woolworths and a fake head and neck. The model was sunk after being photographed, and is presumably still somewhere in the loch.**
- 5. The earliest report of a monster in the vicinity of Loch Ness appears in the Life of St. Columba by Adomnán, an abbot of Iona, written in the 7th century.**
- 6. Other sightings include one by Doctor D. Mackenzie of Balnain in the 1870s - he said he saw an object "wriggling and churning up the water".**
- 7. It wasn't until 1933 that the Nessie myth really took off, following the opening of a new road that ran along the side of the loch. A sighting by George Spicer was reported on July 22, and then another by Arthur Grant, a motorcyclist, the following month.**
- 8. The first photographic "evidence" of Nessie was captured by Hugh Grey on November 12, 1933. Critics claimed the blurry image shows Grey's labrador retriever swimming towards its owner with a stick in its mouth.**



Monster or labrador?

**9. Loch Ness is the second largest loch by surface area and the largest by volume.**

**10. It is around 750 feet deep and holds more water than in all of the lakes and rivers of England and Wales combined.**

Loch Ness is the second largest Scottish loch (Photo: AP Images)

**11. There is one island on the loch - Cherry Island at Fort Augustus.**

**12. Part of the loch is 812ft deep. It has been named Nessie's Lair.**

**13. Loch Ness lies in the Great Glen Fault Line between Fort Augustus and Inverness which is the longest glen in Scotland.**

**14. The Loch Ness Monster's nickname "Nessie" means "pure".**

**15. Around one million people visit Loch Ness each year, generating around £25 million for the local economy.**

**16. There are around 200,000 searches for the Loch Ness Monster on Google each month.**



**17. Some believe the Loch Ness Monster is a plesiosaurus, a type of marine dinosaur which roamed the planet 205 million years ago.**



Plesiosaurus (Photo: Getty)

**18. Normal visibility under the water is no more than four inches. The dark colouring is caused by a high density of peat particles.**

**19. The Loch Ness Monster was named the most famous Scot in a 2006 survey.**

**20. There are approximately 40 small rivers, streams, burns and waterways running into the loch, including the Oich, Tarff, Enrich and Farigaig.**

**21. There are two layers of radioactive sediment beneath the waters of Loch Ness. The first was a result of the Chernobyl disaster.**

**22. There have been over 1,000 recorded sightings of the monster, or around 20 a year.**



Men scan the loch in the hope of spotting the monster (Photo: Getty)

**23. Many people have attempted to create false images of Nessie - some have used bales of hay to recreate her humps, others have used a stuffed hippo foot to make a trail of fake prints.**

**24. On April 1 1972, newspapers announced that Nessie was dead. It was part of an April Fools' Day prank organised by John Shields of Flamingo Park Zoo, who planted a dead seal in the loch.**

**25. Among the most recent hoaxes was by George Edwards, who skips boat tours on the loch, in 2012. He used a fibreglass hump to create this image.**

The Edwards hoax

**26. A circus owner once offered a reward of £20,000 to anyone that could bring him the monster alive.**

**27. The first organised search for Nessie was in 1934. Twenty men were each paid £2 a day to be monster watchers - but nothing was spotted.**



**28. The Thatcher government seriously considered an official Loch Ness Monster hunt. There was even talk of using dolphins from America to help look for it.**

**29. The largest search to date was in 1987, costing £1 million. The researchers used advanced sonar and camera technology to look for it. The only data gathered was three sonar contacts that showed a creature "larger than a shark but smaller than a whale".**

**30. During heavy rainfall the loch's waterline has been known to rise by as much as seven feet. A rise of two feet is more common.**

**31. The Official Loch Ness Monster Fan Club is dedicated to the myth.**

**32. The Loch Ness Monster speculation has inspired many films, such as Loch Ness (1996) and Water Horse (2007).**

**33. Toyota, Abercrombie and Fitch, Orange, Vodaphone, Ballygown Spring Water and Kit Kat have all used the loch in their adverts.**

**34. In 2009, a man claimed to have found the Loch Ness Monster on Google Earth. Apple Maps have also captured a shadowy shape near the lake's surface.**

**This image was taken by an Apple Maps satellite above Loch Ness**

**35. The BBC sponsored a search in 2003 but nothing was found.**

**36. The loch never freezes due to a thermocline effect, meaning as the water in the highest 100 metres cools, it will sink and be replaced by the warmer water from the depths. This can make the loch steam on very cold days.**

**37. 100 athletes in the Scottish Triathlon were each insured £1 million against bites from the Loch Ness Monster in 2005.**

**38. In 1970 the majority of the 13th series of Doctor Who was set in and around Loch Ness.**

**39. Dr Rines, who helped find the wreck of the Titanic, spent 37 years searching for Nessie before he died in 2009.**

**40. There are two Loch Ness Monster visitor centers.**



**Urquhart Castle, on the banks of the loch (Photo: AP/Fotolia)**

**41. A great way to see the lake and look out for Nessie is to jump aboard a cruise or drive along the scenic A82 route.**

**42. In 1976, a group of people used bacon as bait in the hope of finding the Loch Ness Monster.**

**43. Scientist Adrian Shine has been looking for Nessie for over 25 years.**

**44. Locals have awarded some Nessie hunters an online diploma.**

45. Loch Ness is 22.5 miles long and between one and 1.5 miles wide.
46. The only deeper loch is Loch Morar in Lochaber, West Highlands, at just over 1,000ft (310m).
47. Explanations for Nessie sightings have included seals or possibly an overgrown eel. In 2013, Jeremy Wade, as part of the series River Monsters, suggested that the loch contains Greenland shark, which reach 20 feet in length and have no dorsal fin.
48. A Buddhist monk - Lama Yeshe Losal Rinpoche - moved to Scotland in 2012 to search for the monster.
49. A documentary team for Channel Five used Hollywood special effects to create an elaborate hoax in 2004. It sparked 600 sightings.
50. Recently released documents show that Denys Tucker was fired from his job at the Natural History Museum in 1960 for claiming to have seen the Loch Ness Monster.



# Document 6

## LOCH NESS MONSTER

Reclaiming the Loch Ness Monster from the current tide of debunking and scepticism. If you believe there is something strange in Loch Ness, read on.

TAKEN FROM: <http://lochnessmystery.blogspot.com/2015/09/nessie-faq.html>

Monday, 14 September 2015

Nessie FAQ

Realising that people of varying familiarity with the Loch Ness Monster visit this blog, I thought it appropriate to put up a page of frequently asked questions concerning Nessie. For some, most of these facts and figures may be well known but to others such as kids who may wish to write a school essay on Nessie or anyone else who wants the straight facts for any article, this Loch Ness Monster FAQ can help them.

Now when I say "*facts*" or "*evidence*" there is clearly going to be disagreement on what constitutes evidence for the Loch Ness Monster. Indeed, most will regard any evidence as falling short whilst others such as myself will be found closer to the other end of the spectrum. The point of this page is not to sit in judgement but rather state what has historically been regarded as evidence.

Also facts can lack unanimity. This is perhaps best shown in the total number of claimed Nessie sightings. Some claim as many as 10,000 whilst others drop to the hundreds depending on their "*filtering*" processes. I have no doubt in my mind that the number of sightings are in the thousands but most never make it into the public domain.

The sources for the data come from a variety of places and the data may change as new information comes to light. This is a work in progress!

**Q. How did the Loch Ness Monster story begin?**

**A.** There had been stories of strange things in Loch Ness going back centuries, but the "*Loch Ness Monster*" as we know it began in 1933 as a series of reports of monsters received increasing attention from local, national and international media organisations. The first report came on May 2nd by a Mrs. Mackay and was followed in August by a sensational sighting of the creature on land by a Mr. and Mrs. Spicer. The first photograph by Hugh Gray followed in November and monster fever reached its highest pitch in April 1934 when the famous Surgeon's Photograph was published.

By the end of 1934, there had been over three hundred claims of monster sightings and the Loch Ness Monster was now firmly established as an international mystery. The press loved a monster story, especially during those years of economic depression, and so a large dinosaur-like creature turning up at a remote highland loch was a godsend for them.

The debate around that time revolved around not only the reports but what the creature could be and what steps should be taken to solve this mystery.

Theories from the fantastical to the more mundane abounded while plans to trap the creature ranged from large, baited hooks to huge steel cages. Plans were afoot to set up long term observation platforms with cine cameras and send divers down to explore the murky and intimidating depths. The creature even merited mention in the British parliament as questions were asked as to the protection the law afforded to a creature as yet unidentified.

Expeditions of varying seriousness and complexity were organised as people proactively sought to obtain conclusive evidence, not only of the creature's existence, but also its identity. However, given the loch's wide range and the creature's apparent shyness, nothing that would convince the likes of the Natural History Museum was ever forthcoming. It seemed there was no need to consult protection laws while Nessie successfully eluded all insipid attempts at capture and by 1935 the story began to slow down and almost disappear as the country moved onto a war footing.

**Q. Was there any monster legends before the Loch Ness Monster became news?**

**A.** Like a lot of other lochs in Scotland, Loch Ness was feared as the abode of a Water Horse. This creature would capture people by pretending to be an ordinary horse ready for use by the wayside. On mounting the beast, the victim would be stuck to the monster which would then race into Loch Ness to feast upon its drowned victim. There are a lot of reference to this unworldly beast in old Victorian books and it is also sometimes referred to as a Kelpie or the more benign Water Bull. Loch Ness is the most often mentioned home of a Water Horse in old Highland literature, exceeding other lochs such as lochs Lomond, Morar, Tay and Awe.

**Q. What about Saint Columba and the Monster?**

**A.** Adamnan's "*Life of Saint Columba*" mentions the saint invoking the name of God to drive away a "*water beast*" that had killed one man and threatened to take another in the River Ness. The account was written in the 8th century but the event probably took place in the middle of the 6th century. The incident perhaps took place at the Bona Narrows just north of Loch Ness though other tales of Columba tell of further encounters with the beast in Loch Ness itself.

Some say the tale is fabricated or speaks of a bear or walrus. The story itself does not identify the animal though it is reasonable that the story presents it as an aquatic-based animal and not something demonic like the Water Horse.

**Q. How many times has the Monster been seen?**

**A. In terms of reports starting in 1933 that appears in books, magazines and newspapers, the total runs to about one thousand seven hundred (1,700). Doubtless, there are others which have gone unreported. This would average out at about twenty sightings a year, but the actual numbers per year can vary enormously from over a hundred to none. Indeed, it seems that the number of reported sightings has been on a continuous slide since the 1970s with various explanations being offered as to why. Is Nessie dead or do less witnesses come forward now?**

**Undoubtedly, a proportion of these reports fall into the hoax or misidentification category. It is generally agreed that witnesses are sincere in what they claim to see and so hoaxes form only a small part of the overall number. As to how many of the remaining reports are monster or misidentification depends on who you ask!**

**There are also reports of the monster before 1933, most of which were revealed by witnesses coming forward after 1933. These come to about seventy in all since the St. Columba story.**

**Q. What is usually described?**

**A. The majority of reports describe a large humped like object in the loch. Sometimes the object has two or three or more humps which can change shape. Perhaps a fifth will describe a long neck seen with the humps or on its own. More rarely a long tail and flippers or webbed feet are described. The object can be described as moving in the water and producing a noticeable wake. Sometimes it simply sinks vertically back into the loch.**

**The skin is usually described as dark in colour and can be smooth or rough in appearance. Horns are mentioned in very rare circumstances as are small eyes and mouth. Finer details of the creature are not usually expected since it is normally seen hundreds of metres away (unless the witness has binoculars or telescope).**

**Q. Has the creature been seen out of the water?**

**A. Yes it has, but on even rarer occasions than water reports; about 29 times in the last 81 years. There are about 55 water based sightings for every land based sighting. The last claimed report was in 2009 and most were in the 1930s. What witnesses describe is in keeping with water based reports, though there are some exceptions which are weird to say the least.**

**Q. What is the evidence for the Loch Ness Monster?**

**A. There is a large volume of eyewitness testimony as well as a range of films, photographs and sonar readings. However, the quality of the evidence is disputed. It is said that the testimonies are unreliable and untrustworthy while the photographs and films are deemed inconclusive or hoaxes. Sonar readings are disputed as being illusions created by sound reflections and refractions as well as lacking resolution.**

To some extent the evidence is in the eye of the beholder as personal bias and prejudice enters the assessment on both sides. Because a number of sightings, photos, films and sonar have been found to be erroneous, there is always a small chance that someone has lied or misperceived. However, this should not be used as a reason for wholesale rejection of all evidence. One bad report does not invalidate 100 others. Each has to be assessed on its own merits and that is where the debate begins and continues to this day.

Ultimately, zoological experts will require a piece of the creature, dead or alive. It may be that even close up shots of the creature in this digital age will be disputed, so in the tradition of the Wild West, it is a case of "*Wanted, Nessie: Dead or Alive*".

**Q. Where can I get the latest sightings of the Loch Ness Monster?**

**A.** There are various outlets. Online newspapers will carry stories as will this blog from time to time. Gary Campbell's sightings website is also recommended ([link](#)). For the latest news on any aspects of Nessie, you could always set up a Google News alert to your mail inbox when news items appear on the Web.

**Q. Why has no carcass of the monster been found?**

**A.** The nature of the loch does not allow for carcasses to rise and drift ashore. Anything that dies will sink to the bottom aided by the loch's sheer high sides. Once the body is hundreds of feet below, the cold waters of the loch arrest the decomposition process, allowing scavengers to strip the carcass. This also defeats the buildup of gases in body chambers and the remains will not achieve buoyancy and float to the surface. The high water pressure at the bottom of the loch will also compress any decomposition gases, which again defeats buoyancy. If the monster has a skeleton, it will eventually be buried in silt or even dissolve in the water's slightly acidic environment if they are cartilaginous.

**Q. Is there enough food in Loch Ness to feed the monster?**

**A.** That again depends who you ask and how you frame the question. If by that you mean a herd of 50 plesiosaurs then the answer is "*No*". But if you specify a different kind of monster and lower the presumed population, the answer moves towards "*Yes*". Various attempts have been made to estimate the biomass of Loch Ness (excluding monsters) by sonar counting fish or extrapolating mathematically from samples of various animals from various points in the food chain. The only exact thing known is that no one knows exactly how much biomass is in Loch Ness.

The best estimate for fish in the top layer of the water column is up to 24 tonnes but this does not account for fish along the sides, near the surface and closer to the bottom. This would include migratory salmon, trout and bottom feeding eels. These will increase the total number multiple times (my own estimate is over 160 tonnes).

The other factor is Nessie dietary requirements. One estimate suggests the Loch Ness biomass can sustain a monster population one-tenth in mass which could range from 2.4

to 16 tonnes. But there are other ratios depending on the type of creature which allows a small population of monsters. The answer is not as clear cut as some make out.

But some Nessie believers do accept there is not enough food and these people tend to believe in a monster that is of paranormal origin or is a regular visitor to the loch which feeds in the oceans. More information can be had at this link.

**Q. Will the Loch Ness Monster mystery ever be solved?**

**A. This again depends on who you ask. Some feel that the mystery was solved in the 1980s when people such as Adrian Shine synthesised a theory based on various misidentifications of known and not so well known natural phenomena plus the additions of hoax explanations and the occasional visit to the loch by Atlantic Sturgeon. Others think this theory is too simplistic and makes unwarranted assumptions about the observational abilities of the eyewitnesses. The manner in which photographic evidence is handled is also seen as too dismissive by those on the monster side of the debate. The accusation that something should have been found by now is also levelled, though without a convincing explanation as to why this should be the case.**

## **EVIDENCE**

Note it is not being claimed here that all these are proof of the monster. Some are not but some will be. Also, there are a number of lesser known photos which I don't about which briefly "*surfaced*" in the 1980s and 1990s in one particular newspaper only to disappear from view.

**Total number of known sightings: about 1800**

**Total number of land sightings: 35**

**Total number of sightings before Nessie "Era": about 70**

**Total number of photographs: about 30**

**Total number of films: about 30**

**Total number of sonar contacts: over 20**

## **KEY DATES**

**Earliest account of Monster: 565 AD by Adamnan**

**First newspaper report of a "huge fish" in Loch Ness: Inverness Courier 8th October 1868**

**First "*modern*" sighting: 14th April 1933 by Aldie Mackay (reported 2nd May)**

**Land sighting by Spicers on 22nd July 1933 which made international news**

**First photograph by Hugh Gray: 12 November 1933 at Foyers**

**Marmaduke Wetherell investigation for Daily Mail: November 1933 to January 1934**

**First organised expedition by Sir Edward Mountain: July-August 1934**

**The Surgeon's Photograph published April 21st 1934 by the Daily Mail**

**Rupert Gould publishes "*The Loch Ness Monster and Others*" in June 1934**

**Loch Ness Monster news goes into hibernation during war years**

**Lachlan Stuart photograph of three humps taken in July 14th 1951**

**Peter MacNab takes a picture of the monster swimming by Castle Urquhart on July 1955.**

**Constance Whyte publishes "More Than A Legend" in 1957.**

**Tim Dinsdale takes his famous monster film in April 1960.**

**The Loch Ness Phenomenon Investigation Bureau is founded in 1962 spending 10 years on the hunt**

**The Academy of Applied Sciences expeditions take their famous flipper photo on 8th August 1972.**

**They repeat the feat with the gargoyle and body pictures in 1975.**

**Operation Deepscan sweeps the loch with a line of boats in October 1987 with three unidentified sonar hits.**

**Nicholas Witchell fronts Project Urquhart in 1993.**

**April 1994: Surgeon's Photo exposed as hoax by Alistair Boyd and David Martin.**

## **STATISTICS**

**Best year for sightings: Five on the 24th July 1934**

**Best month for sightings: August (about 20%)**

**Worst month for sightings: January (about 3%)**

**Best day of month for sightings: 27th (5% average is 3%)**

**Worst day of month for sightings: 31st (1.5% but only 7 months have that day)**

**Best time of day for sightings: 3pm-4pm (10%)**

**Worst time of day for sightings: 3am-4am (0.5%)**

## THE MONSTER

There are a multiplicity of candidates which attempt to identify what the Loch Ness Monster is. Though some may be drawn from known animals, be they existing or extinct, some kind of modification was required to fit the Nessie identikit. Here is a selection of them. Note that questions about the lifecycle of the monster very much depend on which (if any) of these creatures best describes the monster.



**Plesiosaur or Elasmosaurus**



**Tullimonstrum Gregarium**



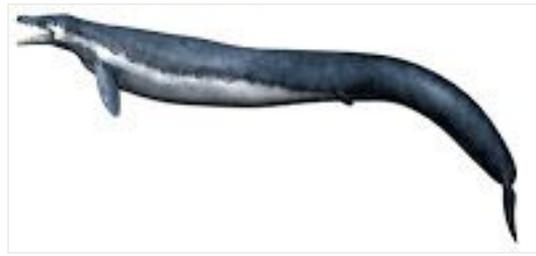
**Giant eel**



**Long Necked Seal**



**Paranormal Entity**



**Basilosaurus**



**Embolomeri Amphibian**



**Atlantic Sturgeon**



**Misidentification of common phenomena**

### **Monster Statistics**

**Average Length: 20-25 feet**

**Maximum Length: up to 60 feet**

**Minimum Length: A few feet!**

**Humps: Generally up to three, 3 to 10 feet in length and up to several feet high.**

**Neck: Typically 5 to 6 feet which tapers to about one foot where it joins body. Can be described as pillar or pole like.**

**Head: Sometimes described as small or even a continuation of the neck.**

## MONSTER HUNTERS AND SCEPTICS

The Loch Ness Monster has had its supporters and detractors throughout the decades. From the earliest days in 1933, when investigator Rupert Gould turned up at the loch to interview eyewitnesses through to today when a plethora of all types can be found with a simple Google search, finding an opinion on the monster is not difficult to find. Here we categorise some past and present names according to for, against or just simply in it for the publicity. The decades they were/are active in these roles is an estimate in some cases.

### *The Monster Men*

Rupert Gould (1930s - 40s) Wrote first book on Nessie in 1934, "*The Loch Ness Monster and Others*"

Alex Campbell (1930s - 70s) Water Bailiff at Loch Ness who claimed 17 sightings.

Constance Whyte (1930s - 70s) Wrote influential book "*More Than a Legend*" in 1957.

Tim Dinsdale (1960s - 80s) Took most famous footage of beast in 1960 and wrote five books.

David James (1960s - 70s) Lead founder of Loch Ness Investigation Bureau

F. W. Holiday (1960s - 70s) Author of three books on or relating to Nessie.

Robert Rines (1970s - 2000s) Led the famous underwater searches in the 1970s.

Nicholas Witchell (1960s - 90s) Wrote the book "*The Loch Ness Story*".

Steve Feltham (1990s - today) Longest serving monster hunter living by the loch since 1992.

### *The Sceptics*

Tony Harmsworth (80s - today) Former curator of the Official Loch Ness Exhibition

Adrian Shine (80s - today) Leader of Loch Ness Project and curator of Loch Ness Centre

Dick Raynor (80s - today) Loch Ness Researcher and author of various articles.

Maurice Burton (1960s - 90s) Author of "*The Elusive Monster*" and first major sceptic.

Steuart Campbell (1980s-today) Author of "*The Loch Ness Monster - The Evidence*" and various articles

Ronald Binns (1980s) - Author of "*The Loch Ness Mystery - Solved*"

*The Dubious Men*

**Marmaduke Wetherell (1930s) Lead conspirator in the Surgeon's Photo fake.**

**Frank Searle (1960s - 80s) Faker of many a Nessie photograph.**

**Anthony "Doc" Shiels (1970s-80s) Faker of various Nessie and Sea Serpent photos.**

**George Edwards (1980s-today) Loch Ness cruise boat operator and self confessed hoaxer.**

*Noted Eyewitnesses*

**Aldie Mackay (1933)**

**George Spicer (1933)**

**Hugh Gray (1933)**

**Kenneth Wilson (1934)**

**Alex Campbell (various years)**

**Tim Dinsdale (1960)**

**Greta Finlay (1952)**

**Marjory Moir (1936)**

**James McLean (1937)**

*Noted Photos*

**Hugh Gray (1933)**

**Kenneth Wilson (1934)**

**F. C. Adams (1934)**

**Lachlan Stuart (1951)**

**Peter MacNab (1955)**

**Peter O' Connor (1960)**

**Jennifer Bruce (1982)**

**Anthony Shiels (1977)**

**James Gray (2001)**

**Roy Johnston (2002)**

### ***Noted Films***

**Malcolm Irvine (1933 and 1936)**

**G. E. Taylor (1938)**

**Tim Dinsdale (1960)**

**Peter Smith: (1977)**

**Gordon Holmes (2007)**

**Dick Raynor (1967)**

**Total number of books on monster: Sixty Three (and counting!)**

### **Loch Ness Facts**

**Maximum Depth: 227 metres**

**Average Depth: 132 metres**

**Temperature:**

**Max Length: 36.2 kilometres**

**Max Width: 2.7 kilometres**

**Height above sea level: 17 metres**

**Volume: 7.5 cubic kilometres**

**Rivers: Oich, Moriston, Tarff, Foyers, Coilte, Enrick, Ness (outflow)**

**Towns (population estimates in parentheses): Fort Augustus (646), Invermoriston (264),  
Drumnadrochit (1020), Abriachan (120), Dores (109), Foyers (276), Inverfarigaig (74)**

**Total Loch Ness human population Estimate: over 2,500.**

**Total Loch Ness monsters population Estimate: ???**