



# Cambridge Primary Checkpoint

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**ENGLISH**

**0058/01**

Paper 1 Non-fiction

**October 2025**

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**1 hour**

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**INFORMATION**

- This insert contains the reading text.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.



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This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

## Text for Section A

### Enthusiasts of Loch Ness monster ready for biggest search in 50 years

*Using drones<sup>1</sup> and special sound equipment, hundreds of volunteers worldwide will take part in the surface watch for the Loch Ness monster*

It was over 90 years ago that Aldie Mackay, manager of the Drumnadrochit hotel, burst into the hotel restaurant one evening to tell speechless guests she had just witnessed a ‘water beast’ in Loch Ness. 5

It was this sighting – enthusiastically reported in the Inverness Courier – that began the modern myth-making around a mysterious monster surviving in the depths of the Highland loch<sup>2</sup>. Next weekend hundreds of enthusiasts are expected to take part in the biggest organised hunt for 50 years, in the hope of glimpsing this elusive creature that so few have witnessed. 10

Arranged by the newly modernised Loch Ness Centre, volunteers from across the globe will participate in person and online. They will search for breaks in the water and any unexplainable movements over a two-day period. 15

In partnership with the voluntary research team Loch Ness Exploration, the hunt will use surveying equipment that has never been used on Loch Ness before. This equipment includes special infrared cameras which produce thermal<sup>3</sup> images of the water from the air, as well as a hydrophone to detect any sound beneath the surface. 20

Over the years, scientists and amateur enthusiasts have looked for evidence of a large fish such as a sturgeon living in the 230-metre-deep loch, or even a prehistoric marine reptile like a plesiosaur, but to no avail.

Alan McKenna, of Loch Ness Exploration, who will instruct volunteers live from the Loch Ness Centre each morning on the things to look out for and ways to record findings, said: ‘It’s our hope to inspire a new generation of Loch Ness enthusiasts.’ 25

Alistair Stewart, present manager of Drumnadrochit hotel, said that the renewed interest in the monster legend had led to ‘unbelievable’ bookings across this summer season. ‘Hotels and visitor attractions working together is the only way local businesses are going to survive,’ said Stewart. 30

And the area has much more to offer than just a mythical monster, he adds: ‘At one end we’ve got the UK’s highest mountain and at the other the biggest areas of fresh water. It’s an amazing place. Every season is different.’



*The most famous image from 1934 of the Loch Ness monster*

## Timeline

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The earliest mention of a monster in the area of the loch dates back to the **sixth century**, when an Irish monk said that he had seen a 'water beast' in the River Ness, which flows from the loch.

The story came to worldwide attention in **1933**, when the Inverness Courier reported on Aldie Mackay's sighting.

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In the **1960s** the Loch Ness Investigation Bureau was set up. In **1972** it completed a huge search of the loch, but water visibility in the loch is exceptionally poor and no evidence could be found.

Operation Deepscan (**1987**) used sonar<sup>4</sup> equipment across the width of the loch and claimed to have found an 'unidentified object of unusual size and strength'.

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An international team of researchers from universities around the world did a DNA survey of the loch in **2018**, and ruled out the presence of any large animals likely to be behind reports of a monster.

## Glossary

<sup>1</sup>drones: remote-controlled flying machines

<sup>2</sup>loch: lake

<sup>3</sup>thermal: relating to heat

<sup>4</sup>sonar: a method for detecting objects under water using sound

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