Reporting clauses in the passive

The following verbs can be used in reporting clauses in the passive.

announce	deny	maintain	reveal	suggest
confirm	estimate	observe	rumor	understand

Reporting clauses in the passive are commonly used with a variety of structures.
Simple present: It **is suggested** that passengers report anything suspicious to the driver.
Simple past: It **was** flatly **denied** that a nuclear submarine had been lost in the Arctic Ocean.
Present perfect: It **has been estimated** that the construction of Stonehenge took over 20 million hours.
Past perfect: It **had been rumored** that a monster was living in the lake.
With modals: It **couldn't be denied** that many mysteries elude scientific understanding.
With past modals: It **should have been confirmed** that the flight would be delayed.

Reporting clauses in the passive are used in written and formal English and are not common in conversation.

1 Add a reporting clause in the passive with *it* to these statements. Use the verb and the suggested structure in parentheses.

1. The lost city of Atlantis had been discovered on April Fool's Day, 1980. (announce, simple past)
   It was announced that the lost city of Atlantis had been discovered on April Fool's Day, 1980.
2. A fast-food restaurant discontinued a favorite hamburger as a publicity stunt. (reveal, present perfect)
3. Some people have a higher level of intuition than others. (understand, simple present)
4. Crop circles, patterns created by flattening crops, are a clever hoax. (can't deny, present modal)
5. The moon's pull on the earth affects the ocean tides. (maintain, simple present)
6. The politician was deceiving the nation. (should reveal, past modal)
7. A positive attitude was an important part of his cure. (observe, simple past)
8. One out of ten people falls for Internet scams every year. (estimate, past perfect)

2 Rewrite these statements with a reporting clause in the passive with *it*.

1. An unknown source maintains that the Loch Ness Monster has been sighted several times.
   It is maintained that the Loch Ness Monster has been sighted several times.
2. Archeologists have revealed that the ancient residents of Easter Island likely painted their statues.
3. Officials should have observed that there was a mysterious substance on the train floor.
4. People can't deny that ancient civilizations possessed knowledge lost to us today.
5. A newspaper has confirmed that a pack of 400 wolves was terrifying a town in Siberia.
6. The authorities have announced that 10 people on the ship got sick.

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