

Who Was Pittdown Man?

In 1912, an amateur archaeologist named Charles Dawson claimed to have found fossils belonging to a “missing link” between ape and man. The fossils consisted of a partial skull and jaw bone which were given the scientific name of *Eoanthropus dawsoni* (Dawson’s Dawn Man). Since the fossils were found near the village of Pittdown in southern England, they are more commonly referred to as “Pittdown Man.” In 1915, more Dawn Man fossils, animal fossils and tools were discovered a couple of miles from the original site. For over 40 years, these discoveries were touted as proof of human evolution and featured in sculptures like the one shown on the right. Many evolutionists declared that the missing link had been found!



Pittdown Man was a clever hoax made from an ape’s jaw bone and a human skull

In 1953, Dr. Kenneth Oakley exposed Pittdown Man as a deliberate fraud.¹ Here are some important facts:

- The fossil had been constructed using a jaw bone from a modern orangutan and a piece of a 500 year old human skull. Both fossils were chemically treated to look old and give the appearance that they belonged to the same creature.
- A key piece of the jaw was broken off to conceal the fact that it didn’t really belong with the human skull fragment. Some of the teeth had been filed down and rebuilt to resemble human wear patterns.
- Chemical analysis showed that **none** of the Pittdown fossils or tools actually came from the Pittdown sites; they had been planted from other locations!

During the period when Pittdown Man was discovered, there was a lot of pressure to find missing links, so the find was welcomed by many in the scientific community. Furthermore, since some of the scientists who initially examined the fossils had impressive credentials, the possibility that the fossil was a fake was not investigated until much later. This means that unsuspecting students and the public were taught a lie for over forty years!

So what can we learn from this? We should be skeptical about claims made by evolutionists and carefully examine the evidence. After all, the Bible tells us that God created man in His image on Day 6 of Creation Week. Apes have always been apes and humans have always been humans.

Recommended Resource: White, Montey, “The Pittdown Man Fraud”, November 24, 2003 Answers in Genesis <https://answersingenesis.org/human-evolution/pittdown-man/the-pittdown-man-fraud/>