

Notes to the Map, by Paul Elliott

The map included in this PDF document is loosely based on that given in Patrick Ottoway's book *Roman York*, published in 2005 by Tempus. I say loosely because I have used Patrick's road, river and fort alignments as a basis for some of my own interpretations and speculations. The map is intended to go beyond the archaeological and historically attested to give a Late Roman re-enactor some idea of the geography of the Roman world in 400AD. A current archaeological map will have holes that are yet to be filled. Tentatively, with as little fantasy creation as possible, and a little supposition and extrapolation, I have created a complete Roman map for the period. It features all active 4th century forts, local settlements, villas (so far discovered), pottery/tile kilns and the single iron mine.

I should like to explain my suppositions in more detail, enabling the reader to differentiate established fact from my suggestions.

- I have named all of the coastal signal stations using simple 'first, second, third' terminology.
- I have removed those partially traced Roman roads that do not (yet) seem to go anywhere. All the remaining Roman roads therefore have definate destinations. I have extended the North Yorkshire road to Goldsborough, not too fantastical a stretch I hope.
- I have placed the as-yet-unplaced location of Praesidium at Bridlington. This is one good candidate for the fort's location.
- Piercebridge (the fort I have named Magis) is named thus on my copy of the Ordanance Survey Map of Roman Britain (1956).
- Dictis represents Newton Kyme. Newton Kyme, like Piercebridge, is unnamed in the historical record, but a fort named Dictis is unaccounted for somewhere in the north of England. Suggestions as to its whereabouts include undiscovered forts at Whitby or Middlesborough, or the fort at Piercebridge. Since Newton Kyme is a newly built 4th century fort close to York it would probably be important and well-used. I needed a name and garrison, and Dictis is available and has both. Newton Kyme may or may not be Dictis.
- On river names. I bow to the linguistic acrobatics of others. Many seem to have been connected with pre-Roman Celtic names, and these or their Romano-British equivalents I have tried to include. Only three rivers have I had to create names for (since they instead have Scandinavian origins). My creations are the River Parisi for the River Hull, Rivus ('stream') for the Rye, and River Dunum for the Tees.

Everything else is pretty much as-written in the books!

- Paul Elliott