



Britain's newest airport is to be named after legendary hero Robin Hood.

The name Robin Hood Doncaster Sheffield has been given to the £80m development at the former RAF base in Finningley, near Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

Robin Hood, who spent much of his life in the Doncaster area, shot ahead of other famous people with local links.

Naturalist Charles Darwin, Second World War fighter pilot Douglas Bader and pioneering aviator Amy Johnson were among the leading contenders.

The government gave the green light for the former RAF Finningley to be converted into a civilian airport last April.

Global recognition

Scheduled to open in spring 2005, the airport will cater for 2.3m passengers and 50,000 tonnes of freight each year by 2014.

The 900-acre airport and business zone site is owned by Peel Airports Limited, the company that broke new ground in 2002 by renaming Liverpool airport Liverpool John Lennon Airport.

Peel Airports chairman Robert Hough said: "Robin Hood is a well-known and well-loved character the world over, and one who is undeniably associated with this part of the country.

"Peel wants the airport to be known for first-class security, safety and efficiency, but we also want to inject an element of fun and enjoyment into the travellers' experience.

"The Robin Hood brand will enable us to inform people about what the area has to offer, as well as providing a 'personality' for the airport."