

Boris Island airport resurrected

This news that the Government would look at a new London Airport in the Thames Estuary as part of its overall review of airport needs in the South East was met with groans of dismay from East Coast yachtsmen.

A number of who contacted RYA East to know what the RYA was doing to squash the idea. The RYA's legal manager Gus Lewis said: "The Government has confirmed that it will be including proposals for an airport in the Thames Estuary in its broader public consultation on the future of UK aviation.

"This consultation is due to be published in March and we are not expecting to be able to get hold of any more specific information until that consultation is launched. We will, of course, be considering that consultation in detail in due course and we will keep you posted!"

RYA East Environmental and Planning co-ordinator Chris Edwards added: "There's not a lot we can do at this moment, but as soon as we have the details we'll do our utmost to ensure the minimum effect on recreational boating."

Garth Cooper, co-author of East Coast Pilot commented: "It's bad enough having all these wind farms in the Estuary but to plonk a massive development like an international airport in the mouth of the Thames, one of our busiest and most crowded waterways is plain daft. The cost alone will be prohibitive, and what such a structure would do to tidal flows and accretion and scouring doesn't bare thinking about. It is a great pity that MPs generally see the sea as a dumping ground for all the projects they daren't mount on land. Enough is enough!"