

The Watlington Neighbourhood Development Plan documents include aims for a re-aligned route for the B4009 to take some through traffic away from the centre of the town, which is designated as an Air Quality Management Area, and to serve new development. The aim is to achieve a route with the character of an edge street, extending the town to the north and west and providing a new boundary to the settlement.

The following information is extracted from WNDP documents: Neighbourhood Development Plan 2017 – 2033, Development Strategy Topic Paper, Watlington Traffic Management Plan:

Key aims for the new route are as follows:

* The route should reflect the rural character of the existing B4009 which is a ‘B’ classified route connecting villages along the Chilterns spring line, but including Junction 6 of the M40.
* It should be able to take through traffic, including permitted HGVs, in order to alleviate traffic congestion in the town centre and improve air quality in the AQMA.
* It should fit well into the existing character of Watlington as part of the extension of the town to the north and west.
* In line with the carriageway at either end of the proposed new section of road, the width should be a maximum of 6.5m wide.
* New dwellings should be at least 10m from the carriageway.
* There should be substantial screening along the new route including mixed native hedging and mature trees in line with the character of the existing route.
* Footpaths and cycle ways should be safe with appropriate crossing points and good access into the town, local services and facilities. New paths should connect well with the existing network into the town and the adjacent countryside.
* Provision needs to be made for safe bridleways to connect with existing bridle routes, especially to the Oxfordshire Way and Ridgeway routes.
* The route will be within the existing 7.5t limit zone. Permitted vehicles legitimately delivering/collecting from within the zone should be encouraged to use the new, re-aligned, route and avoid the town centre.
* The speed limit along the route is expected to be 30mph with some 20mph through the main residential areas.