

An Taisce report - IBAL survey of beaches, rivers and harbours, Summer 2019			
Summary Comment	County	Location	
<p>Seapoint: An excellent result for Seapoint and an improvement on the 2018 survey when it was Moderately Littered. It was an excellent site in terms of overall presentation and litter. The beach was particularly clean with just some cigarette butts in the concrete near the swimming area and occasional other minor items. Fresh bags in the litter bins give the impression of a recently cleaned environment and the bins were well managed. This popular site was very much deserving of the a top litter ranking.</p>	Dublin	Seapoint	Clean to European norms
<p>Salthill - Galway: Another excellent result for Salthill, Galway. This extensive survey area extended along the Prom from Salthill to diving boards at Blackrock. Apart from some cigarette butts in the car parking area it was excellent with regard to litter. There were several opportunities for separating waste along the Prom. Also, some Poop and Scoop facilities and regular bins throughout the area surveyed. Wooden benches and seating were in good order. Many years ago Dog Fouling had been a big problem along The Prom but this would appear to be no longer the case. Overall, Salthill is a well used and cared for environment.</p>	Galway	Salthill	Clean to European norms
<p>Lough Rea: This was an excellent site in terms of litter and overall presentation. The water was spotless. Pedestrian pathway, car path, grassy area and tiny beach were all very good with regard to litter. Clearly Loughrea bathing area is a very well cared for and respected environment - a noticeable improvement on the 2018 survey when it was Moderately Littered.</p>	Galway	Lough Rea (Loughrea)	Clean to European norms
<p>River Nore - Kilkenny: This was an excellent site in terms of overall presentation and litter. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the area surveyed and this was particularly good considering the high numbers of people.</p>	Kilkenny	River Nore (Kilkenny)	Clean to European norms

<p>River Shannon - Carrick on Shannon: It is great to see this site perform as well as in the 2018 survey. Overall, this was an excellent site. The area assessed was clean and very well maintained. Overflowing bins were responsible for small amounts of litter to be seen. An awareness campaign on feeding the ducks / birds (e.g. can cause algae blooms, low nutritional value to birds etc.) might address the small amounts of bread wrappers in the water. The pedestrian pathway, railings, signage etc. and immediate hinterland were in very good order.</p>	<p>Leitrim</p>	<p>River Shannon (Carrick-on-Shannon)</p>	<p>Clean to European norms</p>
<p>Curraclloe: A considerable improvement was noted at Curraclloe. It was very much deserving of the top litter ranking with a virtual absence of litter throughout the area surveyed. The beach and immediate environs were in very good order. Overflowing bins could become potential litter if not emptied frequently enough.</p>	<p>Wexford</p>	<p>Curraclloe</p>	<p>Clean to European norms</p>
<p>Kilmore Quay: A very good impression was created at Kilmore Quay. It is a lovely harbour, with a virtual absence of litter and a clean impression throughout. Recycling area was in very good order and there were lots of dog fouling signs and bins.</p>	<p>Wexford</p>	<p>Kilmore Quay</p>	<p>Clean to European norms</p>
<p>Ballycotton: Much of the area surveyed in Ballycotton was very good with regard to litter but there were some minor litter issues e.g. litter on the steps down to the pier and in the water around the docks - majority of this litter was food related with some traces of fishing lines, fishing nets and string. The most obvious water based marine litter was string with lower amounts of fishing line and nets.</p>	<p>Cork</p>	<p>Ballycotton</p>	<p>Moderately littered</p>
<p>Cork Harbour - Crosshaven: The small amount of litter items were generally land based, with cans and plastic bottles the most obvious general litter. Marine based litter included fishing line, rope and string.</p>	<p>Cork</p>	<p>Cork Harbour (Crosshaven)</p>	<p>Moderately littered</p>
<p>Bantry: There was a definite improvement at Bantry compared to the 2018 survey when it was Heavily Littered. The pier was generally very fresh and clean with regard to litter with just occasional regular litter items. The most obvious marine based items included rope and crab / lobster pots which appear to be unused - the quayside area was somewhat unkempt in appearance.</p>	<p>Cork</p>	<p>Bantry</p>	<p>Moderately littered</p>

<p>Long Strand (Cork) There was a virtual absence of land-based litter at Long Strand. It would appear that the site is being cleaned regularly and effectively. It was the water based marine litter which brought down the litter grade - a wide variety of marine items were present e.g. buoys, old fishing rope, pieces of plastic and other debris - much of this was tangled up in seaweed.</p>	Cork	Long Strand	Moderately littered
<p>Killybegs: Killybegs wasn't too bad with regard to land based regular litter but a feature along the pavement was litter left in the base of the street bins which had been removed - with a gust of wind these items will quickly blow about the ground and ultimately into the water. Marine based litter items in the water included rope stuck in the rocks and fish boxes, mostly long-lie items. Some street cones were also to be found in the water.</p>	Donegal	Killybegs	Moderately littered
<p>Bundoran: Much of the area surveyed in Bundoran presented well and was generally in good order with regard to litter. However, cigarette butts were pronounced and there was evidence of drinking with alcohol cans and bottles. 'Vote with Your Butt' facility at the Life Guard Hut was being used. Marine based litter was not an issue at Bundoran. A broken and rusty litter bin close to the Tourist Office created a poor impression but the remainder of the bins were freshly presented.</p>	Donegal	Bundoran	Moderately littered
<p>River Corrib - Galway City: A very extensive area was surveyed from rowing clubs close to Galway Cathedral to the Galway Docks / harbour area. The main pedestrian pathways along the river were excellent with regard to litter. There were occasional water based litter items but cigarette butts were present at the many seating areas along the river. Cans and coffee cups were also a feature. Marine based litter items at the harbour area included crab / lobster pots, crates, rope / string pieces of wood and oil / lube bottles. There was nice use of 'Tidy Towns Traffic Light Box Art' at the bridge by Spanish Arch.</p>	Galway	River Corrib (Galway City Centre)	Moderately littered

<p>River Laune - Killorglin: This site would have scored better but the area by the smokehouse had an obvious litter presence - main items included food wrappers, plastic bottles coffee cups with lower amounts of cigarette butts, glass bottles and sweet papers. The grass viewing / seating area with wooden benches was in good order and overall. There appeared to be an active Tidy Towns in Killorglin.</p>	Kerry	River Laune (Killorglin)	Moderately littered
<p>River Laune - Dingle: Much of the area surveyed in Dingle scored well. There was little land based regular litter and the immediate environment was well presented. Most of the litter was marine-based, most notably fishing nets and rope / string. There was also some marine litter in-between rocks above the tide line. Both the river and harbour water areas were good with regard to litter.</p>	Kerry	Dingle	Moderately littered
<p>Lahinch: The overall impression created at Lahinch was a positive one. and an improvement on the 2018 survey. There were several opportunities for separating waste throughout the area surveyed - a welcome addition to any heavily used environment. The main litter items were food wrappers, chewing gum and cigarette butts as well as sea borne items on the north end of the beach e.g. cans and plastic bottles. Some marine litter items included fishing nets, pieces of wood, string and rope.</p>	Clare	Lahinch	Moderately littered
<p>Ballybunion: Much of Ballybunion scored well with regard to general litter but isolated areas did bring down the overall ranking. The main water based marine litter items included crates and fishing nets with lower levels of rope and string. There were items discarded in the recycle facility.</p>	Kerry	Ballybunion	Moderately littered
<p>Doolin Pier - Clare This site featured in the media coverage surrounding last year's results due to the very heavy levels of litter . This year things had improved considerably, including the installation of shiny new bins for the separation of litter. Cigarette butts were particularly prevalent at the queue for the ferry - perhaps they were present to the same degree last year but were overshadowed by the myriad of other items last year. The provision of cigarette butt units could make a difference here.</p>	Clare	Doolin Pier, Clare	Moderately littered

<p>Kinsale Harbour: This lovely area was generally well maintained and just missed getting the top litter grade. Small scatterings of a wide variety of mostly food related litter in parts of the site but also areas that were virtually litter free. Litter was both land and water based. Cigarette butts were quite pronounced and there was dog fouling. For a harbour environment it was striking that marine based litter wasn't a feature at Kinsale Harbour.</p>	Cork	Kinsale Harbour	Moderately littered
<p>River Blackwater - Youghal: On first impression this looked like a clean site. Further inspection revealed lots of fishing equipment, most notably crates, fishing nets and rope with lower amounts of other marine related litter. The carpark in front of the harbour was littered with cigarette butts (greater amounts) with scattered amounts of other items of litter e.g. cans, food wrappers, dog fouling and cardboard. The water based littering was low just a small few scattered items.</p>	Cork	River Blackwater (Youghal)	Moderately littered
<p>Portmarnock - Velvet Strand: There was no marine based litter items at Portmarnock but what primarily brought down the litter grade was the level of clothing and beach related items, some food wrappers and high levels of cigarette butts - the latter were particularly pronounced on the beach and towards the foreshore. There were some opportunities for separating waste e.g. glass and there was a Clean Coasts '#2 Minute Beach Clean' facility. There was an over-flowing litter bin the car park - potential litter.</p>	Dublin	Portmarnock	Moderately littered

<p>Dun Laoghaire: An extensive area which was mixed with regard to litter - the overall ranking is the scale or the litter in relation to the area surveyed. While there were some very clean areas e.g. the East Pier was generally very clean with a virtual absence of litter, the West Pier had some water based litter, most notably, cans, food wrappers and plastic bottles. Along the piers, it was noted that there were large accumulations of cigarette butts at the base of benches and at nooks and crannies in the walls. Litter bins were few and far between in the parking areas. Marine related items e.g. lobster pots, pallets and rope were present in the fishing area and in the rocks below the high tide line and concentrated on the west side of the pier before it curves northward. The marina side of the breakwater had larger accumulations of short lie water-based litter (bottles, food wrappers, etc.) than all other piers.</p>	Dublin	Dun Laoghaire	Moderately littered
<p>Skerries: The beach and immediate environs was generally very good with regard to litter but cigarette butts were particularly pronounced at the pier. Most of the marine litter was land based e.g. crates, fishing line / nets, metal and plastic containers and scrap materials. There was also some regular litter items in the water. The site had motion sensor speakers to remind people to pick up after their dogs. There was plenty of signage in the harbour area with regard to dumping. Right beneath a sign 'Keep this area clear' there was a pile of metal / scrap items. Some of the water based litter was glass from people drinking at nearby pub.</p>	Dublin	Skerries	Moderately littered
<p>Grand Canal Dock - Dublin: An extensive survey area which was moderately littered overall and somewhat better than in the 2018 survey. Some parts were very clean and other much less so. Much of water based litter items were gathered in corner sites at Hanover Quay (e.g. wrappers, cans, glass bottles, plastic bottles, etc.). Feathers and reeds made the litter look worse than it really was. Large areas of Hanover Quay was generally good with regard to litter but the area towards the locks (especially in front of building sites / boarded up area) had some food related litter and very heavy accumulations of cigarette butts. Butts had also gathered at the base of the ornamental tress. Silver litter bins were in very good order. The water area in front of SurfDock / Viking Splash was fine.</p>	Dublin	Grand Canal Dock, Dublin	Moderately littered

<p>River Shannon - Limerick (UL) Much of the overall area was clean but there was a wide variety of scattered single litter items - most notably in the hedgerows, along the path and scatterings around beach area. The overall impression was of a well maintained environment. Anti litter and dog foul signage would be good - particularly at the beach.</p>	Limerick	River Shannon (Limerick UL)	Moderately littered
<p>River Boyne - Drogheda: Overall, this site presented much better than survey in 2018. There were small scattered litter items, but generally quite good. Litter was most noticeable in front of the blue boat. Plenty of flowers along quayside brighten the area. A seagull was perched on what looked like a bag of rubbish in the river and was beginning to enjoy the contents. There was an abandoned shopping trolley beside the railings and another shopping trolley in the water.</p>	Louth	River Boyne (Drogheda)	Moderately littered
<p>Clogher Head - Louth: The overall impression created at this site was of a littered one but not quite as heavily as in the 2018 survey. Levels could quickly deteriorate if not addressed. Many of the bins were overflowing with bags of rubbish left beside the bins. Fish crates were left beside some bins and these were being used to hold litter. All manner of marine based litter items was present on the pier and immediate environment e.g. fishing nets and rope with lower levels of bait package, buoys / floats, crates, plastic containers etc. Car tyres were also a feature at Clogher Head.</p>	Louth	Clogher Head	Moderately littered
<p>River Moy - Ballina: Much of the area surveyed was well presented / maintained and enhanced by an abundance of colourful planting. However, there was a wide variety of land based litter, much of it food and alcohol related. It was noted that cigarette butts were present in large amounts, not just isolated accumulations but throughout the area surveyed. Full / over-flowing bins could become future litter if not addressed e.g. near Salmon Weir. Care needs to be taken at the derelict build at the end of the salmon weir bridge as it could become a magnet for further litter</p>	Mayo	River Moy (Ballina)	Moderately littered

<p>River Garravogue - Sligo: Much of the area surveyed was in good order with nice planting and well maintained green areas. Pathways, railings and stainless / stone seating were in very good condition. The streets / footpaths were generally very clean with regard to litter. However, it was the water based items which were primarily responsible for the litter grade. Several separate areas were noted - e.g. the river bank under the N4 bridge on the Donegal road had a lot of water based long-lie litter, consisting mostly of bottles and cans, that become lodged on high tides. Also, Riverside to bridge near the Glasshouse - bottles and cans were found in larger amounts on riverbed. A shopping trolley and a couple of street cones were in the water below the high tide mark.</p>	Sligo	River Garravogue (Sligo)	Moderately littered
<p>Tramore: There was very little land based litter, with the beach area well managed. Most of the litter was below the tide line. Along tide line there was quite a lot of marine litter present. Main litter items included sweet papers with lower levels of cans, fast-food wrappers, plastic bottles, coffee cups and other paper items.</p>	Waterford	Tramore	Moderately littered
<p>River Suir - Waterford City: An overall improvement was noted on IBAL 2018 status when it was Heavily Littered. The boardwalk area was well presented and generally good with regard to litter. Much of the land based items were in between the parked cars and the wall by the bus station. The main items were food / sweet wrappers cigarette butts and chewing gum, with lower levels of dog fouling, coffee cups, plastic bottles and plastic bags. Water based items included a couple of bicycles, shopping trolley and two traffic cones as well as plastic bottles, cans, sweet papers and food wrappers.</p>	Waterford	River Suir (Waterford City)	Moderately littered

<p>River Shannon - Athlone: A moderately littered site with a mix of litter items both land and water based. The predominant litter type found on land was cigarette butts found in larger quantities particularly along the Quay and The Strand. The North-western bank as far as the railway bridge was relatively litter free other than items lodged in the vegetation by the water's edge. Items observed floating on the water included plastic bottles. On the riverbed where it was shallow enough to observe long lie items such as litter road cones, tyre, blocks, bricks, aluminium cans and various pieces of wood and metal piping. There were a reasonable number of bins, some of which had been tagged. Wooden seating was in good order.</p>	Westmeath	River Shannon (Athlone)	Moderately littered
<p>River Slaney - Wexford: There were moderate levels of a variety of litter items (mostly food / drink related) both on the land and in the rockery, above the water line. It was noted that the area close to the train tracks was more littered while the area around the first bridge was virtually litter free.</p>	Wexford	River Slaney (Wexford)	Moderately littered
<p>Brittas Bay: An expansive site, large parts of which were in good order with regard to litter. North Beach Car Park had scattered items of litter with just small amounts on North Beach. Most of the litter noted was at South Beach. Land based litter items included, small amounts of a variety of food related litter items, cigarette butts, fishing line, some clothing and beach toys. Other items included horse manure, polystyrene and wet wipes. Some larger items had been dumped near the skip in the bushes (long lie item possibly a parasol) and wire at the Blue Flag pole on the North beach. The glass / can recycle facility was a fresh and clean environment. One of the 'Do Not Litter' signs was very faded, almost illegible.</p>	Wicklow	Brittas Bay	Moderately littered
<p>River Dargle - Bray: This was very much a mixed site in terms of litter. The harbour and immediate environs was generally not too bad with regard to litter and it was noted that the bin is now positioned in better location than previously. It was very disappointing to see the beautifully landscaped riverwalk area so casually treated - heavy levels of a wide range of food and alcohol related items had been discarded with reckless abandon - on the ground, seating area and within the planted areas. With a gust of wind much of this could end up in the water. Cigarette butts were also very much a feature throughout.</p>	Wicklow	River Dargle (Bray)	Moderately littered

<p>Cork Harbour - Blackrock Castle: An improvement was noted at this site - from a very low base in IBAL 2018 i.e. Litter Blackspot. The car park and immediate environs wasn't too bad with regard to overall presentation and litter. The opposite side of the castle from the carpark was where the water based litter was heaviest. Items included heavy levels of plastic bottles, plastic bags, cans, food / sweet wrappers and large pieces of plastic. A broken green wheelie bin was submerged and full of seaweed. Several plastic bags of rubbish and other miscellaneous items were dumped in the greenery and there was also a burnt-out inflatable dinghy.</p>	Cork	Cork Harbour (Blackrock Castle)	Littered
<p>Balbriggan: There was little change in the litter status in Balbriggan. The beach and immediate environs was generally good with regard to litter. It was the harbour area which was responsible for bringing down the litter grade - this is similar to 2018. There were heavy levels of all manner of land based litter, both food, clothing and marine related. The latter was particularly pronounced with cares, fishing nets, rope, strapping bands, metal containers and old materials very obvious throughout. Overflowing industrial red bins were potential litter situations. A fishing boat was full of litter and there were tyres, both on the beach and in the water. There was also evidence of pollution from a run off on the surface.</p>	Dublin	Balbriggan	Littered
<p>River Avoca - Arklow: The surrounding roads were generally good with regard to litter and the beach area was moderately littered. But it was the quay / harbour area which really brought down the overall litter grade. White heavy duty tarpaulin bags were being used as bins on the South Quay/harbour area - as they were not covered the contents are exposed to wind and seagulls picking at rubbish (as observed) resulting in items of rubbish on ground surrounding bins . Marine related litter was very much in evidence with discarded fishing nets / rope and some tarpaulin beside a blue metal container. Other discarded items included tyres and plastic matting. A poor impression was created behind some fencing where heavy levels of a wide variety had accumulated. The disposal of dog fouling is clearly an issue as evidenced by the large 'Extreme Dog Litter' art work poster on notice board and the number of dog fouling notices throughout - there was an area with bagged dog fouling.</p>	Wicklow	River Avoca (Arklow)	Littered

<p>River Barrow - Carlow: There was a very definite heavy litter presence at this site with a wide variety of regular litter, both land based and water based. The most obvious items were cans, food wrappers, plastic bottles, coffee cups and cigarette butts. Lower levels of glass bottles, dog fouling, bagged dog fouling, plastic utensils and other items were also present. Marine items included rope, string, fishing line and pieces of wood. Litter was most pronounced around the bridges.</p>	Carlow	River Barrow (Carlow town)	Heavily littered
<p>Cork Harbour - Ballinacurra Midleton) Despite a slight improvement since the 2018 survey, this area wasn't so much littered as subject to dumping. There were heavy levels of a wide variety of land based food related items. The real dumping problems lay in the water - large numbers of traffic cones and household appliances had been discarded.</p>	Cork	Cork Harbour (Ballinacurra, Midleton)	Heavily littered
<p>River Tolka - Annesley Bridge: This river has been subject to significant dumping - e.g. approx 15+ tyres, (a very high number for a relatively small area) some so old that greenery was growing on them. Other items included a couple of bicycles, shopping trolley, child's tricycle, umbrella, scooter were items visible - all long lie. With regard to land based litter. there were food related litter items and cigarette butts on the pavement of East Wall Road. Most of the litter on the park side was hidden in the weeds along the wall (on the river side) while the path and grass area were relatively clean.</p>	Dublin	River Tolka (Annesley Bridge)	Heavily littered