

Dublin City Centre: 31st out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered.

2022 saw a spectacular reduction in litter blackspots in the Capital, which explains its rise in the rankings. Top sites included the Garden of Remembrance, main shopping streets of O'Connell Street and Grafton Street (both were exceptionally well presented and maintained) and St. Stephen's Green Park – a wonderful city centre park environment which was not just spotless but a lovely green space. Improvement noted at Loftus Lane – it was moderately littered compared to very heavy levels a few years ago; Anglesea Row was also much improved with previous problem areas addressed; the former site at Mount Brown, Kilmainham is now under construction and presents much better in terms of litter; Dominic Lane & Dominic Street Lower Flats were moderately littered, and much improved compared to previous surveys; Ormond Court has improved considerably and now very much deserving of the top litter grade; There was no improvement at Parnell Square West or the car park at Werburgh Street – both were litter blackspots and the latter was even worse than in previous surveys.

St Stephen's Green: Grade A. The park was getting plenty of use on a late November lunch-time - despite all the activity, it was exceptionally clean. The 'closed' bins have eliminated the issue of birds foraging the contents. There was excellent visitor / historical information signage throughout. It is a wonderful city centre park space which has been very well presented and maintained.

Grafton Street: Grade A. An impeccably clean main shopping street environment. The paving and large tree planters looked very well. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the closed down / vacant sites - there was no litter directly associated with them. The street is particularly well served by regular street litter bin and 'yellow' recycle bins.

41 Parnell Square West: Grade D+. This boarded up property wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping. Weeds were several feet high. It presents very poorly, particularly for any tourists / visitors to the amenities in the area e.g. Hugh Lane Gallery / Garden of Remembrance. Where does responsibility for this site lie?

Vacant / Boarded up site, Middle Abbey Street: Grade C. There were heavy levels of a wide variety of food related litter, along with other casually discarded items e.g. bicycle wheel and railing etc. It was also subject to graffiti, peeling paint and a general air of dereliction.

Loftus Lane: Grade B. A much improved site compared to a few years ago. The area at the entrance to the multi-storey car park was tidy. The kerbs were clear of litter but food related items had been stuffed behind the grills on some windows – perhaps this is because there were no visible litter bins in the immediate area? Sports attire had been discarded at one corner site.

Garden of Remembrance: Grade A. It is only fitting that the Garden of Remembrance was in such good condition. Not only was it excellent with regard to litter, it was very well presented and maintained – creating an excellent impression for the many visitors on the day of the survey.

Car Park at Werburgh Street: Grade D. This site was worse than ever, if that was even possible. It wasn't just heavily littered (all manner of food and alcohol items) but subject to dumping – domestic and industrial rubbish. Cars were parked, somebody is making an income, why not pursue the owner / occupier of same?

Christchurch Place: Grade A. A busy city centre location with an abundance of pedestrians about. Apart from cigarette butts trapped between the cobblestones, it was a very clean and freshly presented environment. There was excellent directional signage indicating places of interest, street signage was quite old.

Vacant site at Paradise Place / Mountjoy Square: Grade A. This site is now under construction and very well fenced off and maintained. There was no litter in the immediate area of this site.

Mountjoy Street: Grade B. The overall impression along this street was a littered one, well on its way to seriously littered status. There was a variety of litter along the street and within some basements.

Anglesea Row: Grade B+. A much improved site compared to previous IBAL surveys with the problem areas now addressed. Loose litter, graffiti and a wooden pallet were still a feature – care needs to be taken that Anglesea Row doesn't deteriorate to previous status.

Navan Road: Grade A. This road has scored very well in previous IBAL surveys – things were no different this time around. The overall impression was an excellent one with well maintained grass verges and trees.

Ormond Quay Upper: Grade B+. This site just missed getting the top litter grade. Minor food related items and cigarette butts took away from an otherwise well presented environment. Construction work was underway at various vacant sites – there was no litter directly associated with them.

Little Britain Street: Grade B. The Capel Street end of the street was generally quite clean but it was the food related litter items close to the businesses opposite the public park which brought down the litter grade.

Ormond Place: Grade C. A heavily littered environment, with all manner of food related and some clothing items strewn about. Graffiti dominated some walls. The overall impression along Ormond Place was a poor one.

Bottle Bank at Chancery Place: Grade C. There was no improvement at this small Bring Facility – the area to the front of the units was fine but items had been stuffed between, beneath and behind the units. A more thorough cleaning of such facilities is required, not just the emptying of the units.

Grattan Bridge: Grade A. This 'olde' style bridge was very attractively presented with lovely paving, planting and seating – many of the latter being enjoyed by members of the public at the time of the survey. All aspects were in very good order.

Beresford Street: Grade A. An attractively presented and maintained residential street with no obvious litter items throughout. The overall impression created was an excellent one.

Vacant Site at Mount Brown, Kilmainham: Grade B+: Formerly a very heavily littered site, this is currently under construction. The overall presentation was good, just some minor litter and the site was well maintained.

Vacant site at Lamb Alley: Grade C+. This site is no stranger to Grade C status – it has been highlighted in many previous IBAL surveys. Heavy accumulations of mostly alcohol related items had gathered in the basement of this site. Ironically, the weed growth was such that it almost, but not quite, obscures the heavy levels of litter. Graffiti was significant.

Green Street: Grade C+. The most obvious litter items were coffee cups, plastic bottles, plastic bags, mineral cans and sweet wrappers trapped in the leaves opposite the Court House. Lower levels of alcohol cans and cigarette butts were also present. The remainder of the street was generally clear of litter.

Dublinia: Grade A. The entrance and immediate environs from St. Michael's Hill were tidy and clean. Minor litter at basement at corner of High Street and St. Michael's Hill didn't impact the overall litter grade.

11 Ormond Court: Grade A. The previous litter problems at this site have been addressed by the installation of mesh over the basement - now it was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Temple Bar: Grade B+. With a little extra care on behalf of smokers and those who chew gum, this could easily be a top ranking site. Apart from this, the overall impression along this popular area was a very good one. Perhaps the erection of notices reminding the public that 'Chewing Gum / Cigarette Butts are Litter' might help?

O'Connell Street: Grade A. As with many previous IBAL surveys, O'Connell Street was a very clean street - contrary to some recent media reports. Large parts of the street were not just clean, but gleaming. The provision of the yellow bins to 'separate cans / plastic bottles' is a great addition.

Dominic Lane & Dominic Street Lower Flats: Grade B+. Another Dublin city site which saw a marked improvement – this time there were just some minor food and alcohol related items.