

Wicklow: 15th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

With so many top ranking sites within Wicklow town, there are a few which deserve special mention – the large expanse of parkland at BlackCastle was not only excellent with regard to litter but a lovely space which has been very well presented and maintained; Abbey Street / Main Street was looking very well, further enhanced by ornamental trees / large planter boxes; the 'managed Murrough Recycle Facility was spotless, a credit to the staff working there. The one blot on the landscaped was Murrough Industrial Estate – it wasn't just littered but subject to dumping of larger items.

Glebemount – Residential: Grade B+. An extensive residential development with many interconnecting roads, the majority of which were excellent with regard to litter. If it wasn't for the litter inside the entrance on the left side (mostly food and alcohol related), combined with a wooden pallet and black sack this site would have been a top-ranking site. A welcome feature is the 'Bee Friendly' area up a hill on the left.

Tesco Car Park: Grade A. There was no visible butt unit at the main store entrance - butts on the ground to the side. An expansive newly laid out area to the rear of the store was exceptionally freshly presented with attractive planting. Apart from cigarette butts, this was a spotless site.

R750 Marlton Approach Road: Grade A. There were no visible litter issues along this approach into Wicklow town. Apart from some graffiti on an ESB type box on the right-hand side, the overall impression created was a positive one.

Rathnew Approach Road: Grade B+. Overall impression was of a well-maintained route with new paving creating a fresh impression. However, the litter around Home Savers was in sharp contrast to the remainder of the route.

BlackCastle Park: Grade A. A beautiful expanse of grassland (beside the harbour, close to the Lighthouse) with castle ruins, canons, picnic tables, benches, colourful visitor information notices and pedestrian access to a beach - the whole area was spotless throughout. A wonderful resource for the town of Wicklow.

Dunbur Approach Road: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this approach road into Wicklow town. There were a few incidents of graffiti (on a seat / post-box). Road surface / signage / markings were in good order.

Abbey Street / Main Street: Grade A. Abbey Street / Main Street looked fantastic with the large planter boxes / planting throughout, especially at the outdoor seating / dining areas. There appeared to be less 'vacant' sites and those that were present didn't have any litter directly associated with them.

Murrough Recycle Facility: Grade A. An exceptionally clean and well maintained 'managed' facility - this isn't always the case with 'managed' facilities. Clearly the staff are very attentive - even the area beneath the glass bottle units was clean.

Murrough Industrial Estate: Grade D. Hopefully the 'Sale Agreed' sign will mean that this site will be better managed. Inside the fencing there were food related items, industrial wrapping, crates, industrial waste etc.

South Quay / Wicklow Port: Grade A. There were no visible litter items within the water - this was probably helped by the fact there was virtually no land-based litter. Dog fouling / cig butts were the only minor items. Seating area closer to the town end of the quay looked well.