

Cork City: (Centre) 31st out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately Littered

An absence of clean sites, rather than too many very bad sites, brings down Cork City's result – fewer than 40% of those surveyed were Grade A. Some of the survey areas had recently undergone repaving / redevelopment and were very freshly presented e.g., Railway Street, Horgan's Quay, Albert Street and Penrose's Quay – all were very much deserving of the top litter grade. Little Cross Street deserves a particular mention – more importantly, the two pub premises deserve a particular mention – Dwyer's and Reardon's have managed to keep the outdoor areas immaculate, special credit to all concerned. At many of the sites below it was noted that cigarette butts were an issue – Railway Street, Penrose's Quay, Cork Bus Station and Maylor Streets - the installation of dedicated cigarette butt litter notices could help create awareness of same. By far the most heavily littered site was North Abbey Street - this narrow and seemingly neglected laneway presented very poorly, not casually littered but subject to dumping. Anderson's Quay and Bridge Street were heavily littered but not as pronounced as North Abbey Street.

Railway Street: Grade A. A mix of old and new with the new aspects particularly freshly presented e.g., paving, bicycle parking, tree planting etc. all in very good order. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the derelict site as there was no litter directly associated with it. Care needs to be taken that there isn't a further build-up of cigarette butts at the base of the trees. Overall, this site was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Horgan's Quay: Grade A. All elements of this survey area were excellent, not just excellent with regard to litter but exceptionally freshly presented e.g., bicycle parking, tree planting, seating, paving etc. The new buildings were gleaming. It was immaculate throughout.

Penrose's Quay: Grade A. Another excellent site which looked very well. The built environment was in very good order. The newer areas were spotless and there was a virtual absence of litter at the older areas. Perhaps the installation of cigarette butt units close to the seating areas might prevent a build-up of same? There were some incidents of graffiti on various surfaces and plastic ties on poles.

Brian Boru Street: Grade A. Another very clean site, presenting well and generally good with regard to litter. The large mural along a stretch of hoarding had some graffiti.

Anderson's Quay: Grade C. The litter at this site wasn't associated with the derelict buildings on one side but on the opposite side, by the river. The new paving looked very fresh. The most obvious items were mineral cans, glass bottles and cigarette butts with lower levels of alcohol related litter, other food items and miscellaneous items e.g., articles of clothing, face-masks, vaping devices and plastic ties on poles. Some of the above items appeared 'long-lie' indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.

Kennedy's Quay: Grade B. The public areas of Kennedy's Quay were moderately littered. The stretch beside the river was relatively clean but not the footpath area - all manner of food related items, cigarette butts and alcohol cans / bottles were present. Strongly worded 'Port of Cork' anti-dumping signage was freshly presented on a wall. There were no obvious litter bins in the survey area. Not included in the survey area was R&H Hall which was heavily littered.

Albert Street: Grade A. The recently paved area looked very well with some lovely tree planting throughout. Both this side and the 'older' site of the street had no litter issues.

Clontarf Bridge (CB R610-8010): Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter at this site. The painted railings looked well.

St. Patrick's Street: Grade B+. The built environment and streetscape along St. Patrick's Street were excellent e.g., paving, seating, bicycle parking, street lamps, red solar Big Belly Bins ('Love This Place, Leave No Trace' on the side) etc. There were small incidents of a variety of litter items, not in large quantities but too much for the top litter grade. Clearly a close eye is kept on the vacant / closed down premises as there was no litter directly associated with them.

Academy Street: Grade B. The area outside the Chateau Bar was excellent but not so at some other food outlets along Academy Street. Other areas were slightly littered, with items more obvious towards Emmet Place. Items included coffee cups, cigarette butts and sweet papers.

Bridge Street: Grade C. Heavy levels of fast-food wrappers, sweet papers, mineral cans and cigarette butts were present, along with lower levels of a variety of other food and alcohol cans / bottles. Some of the litter was along the kerb and next to the works taking place. Graffiti was very pronounced on a white surface. The coffee shop presented very well and was excellent with regards to litter.

Brown's Hill: Grade B. A gable wall was adorned with a colourful mural, the building across from this was dominated by graffiti, almost the entire length. There were heavy accumulations of cigarette butts with lower levels of other litter. This could be a top-ranking site, with a little extra care and attention.

North Abbey Street: Grade D. A narrow, and seemingly, neglected laneway which was by far the most heavily littered site this time around. It wasn't just the domestic rubbish areas which presented poorly – one stretch was lined with all manner of 'long-lie' food / alcohol litter, along with cardboard boxes, discarded road works signage and other miscellaneous items. In its current state, this will only encourage further dumping.

St. Vincent's Bridge: Grade B+. This pedestrianised bridge just missed the top litter grade. The main thoroughfare was clear, but some items were stuck along either side, at the base of the railings.

Lancaster Quay / Western Road: Grade B. There was a definite litter presence throughout this site, with items particularly obvious at the bus stop (53-570). The most obvious litter items were fast-food wrappers and cigarette butts. Some stickers had been placed on the 'Cork Walks – Lancaster Quay / Western Road' signage. A lovely feature was the nature springing up through the cracks in the bricks along the riverside.

Wandesford Quay: Grade B. A moderately littered site, mostly food related, along with significant levels of cigarette butts. Graffiti / tagging were very much a feature throughout. The double yellow lines were almost worn away along one stretch.

Hanover Street: Grade A. While not as 'freshly presented' as many of the other survey sites areas, it was not a littered site. The area around Costigan's pub deserves a special mention as it was particularly clean – clearly it is very well attended by the staff.

Little Cross Street: Grade A. The outdoor areas of Dwyer's and Reardon's present very well and between them they have managed to keep this short street spotlessly clean. Credit is due to all concerned. The red Fire Exit / Emergency Exit areas of Reardon's were exceptionally clean. Dwyer's frontage was adored with greenery.

Bishop Lucey Park: Grade B+. A lovely small park environment with wooden seating, litter bins, 'olde' style street lamps, paving, etc. in good order. The area was well served by litter bins and dog fouling / dogs on a lead signage was freshly presented. If it wasn't for the cigarette butts and vaping devices, particularly in a cluster amongst some natural debris close to the entrance gate, this would have been a top-ranking site.

Oliver Plunkett Street: Grade B. Litter was more obvious between the Post Office and Grand Parade, less so towards Parnell Place. There were heavy levels of cigarette butts / chewing gum, with lower levels of food items, vaping devices and plastic ties on poles. Graffiti / tagging were significant on the several closed down premises - this presents poorly.

Cork Bus Station: Grade B+. This site just missed the top litter grade. While the paving was freshly presented and clean, cigarette butts had accumulated at the kerbs. Litter bins and bicycle parking were in good order.

Maylor Street: Grade B+. Another site which just missed the top litter grade. With a little extra effort this could be achieved. Chewing gum and cigarette butts were most pronounced, with lower levels of sweet papers.

Emmet Place: Grade B. A lovely 'open' space with plenty of 'outdoor' dining. The area directly outside the Crawford Gallery was clean but other areas were not e.g., near Luigi Malone's. Paving, bicycle parking, street lamps etc. presented well.

French Church Street: Grade B. Street signage and signage relating to 'The Huguenot Quarter' were in good condition. Many of the premises presented well, some were attractively presented and maintained, with an abundance of 'greenery' at one outdoor seating area. There was some litter along French Church Street, along with graffiti / tagging and stickers / fly-posting, taking away from what is otherwise a lovely environment.

North Main Street: Grade A. The overall presentation of this street was excellent with some attractive planting / trees and lovely seating area. There were minimal litter items throughout North Main Street, overall deserving of the top litter grade.