

Dublin City: 37th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered.

A slight fall in cleanliness in our Capital city, with just 40% of sites surveyed deemed clean. Grafton Street and O'Connell Street were both very much deserving of the top litter grade – they generally presented very well in terms of streetscape and clearly, they are carefully monitored with regard to litter. However a basement in O'Connell St was a blot on the landscape, a litter blackspot. Other top-ranking sites included Christchurch Cathedral (fitting for all the international visitors), Four Courts LUAS stop and three park environments – St. Stephen's Green (typically well-presented and maintained), St. Audeon's Park and Bridgefoot Street Park – the latter is a wonderful new 'open' park environment which has nature and biodiversity at its heart - a fantastic addition to this part of the city. Improvements were noted at some sites e.g. 41 Parnell Square, West – a formerly littered site, this time around it was very much deserving of the top litter grade. The Bottle Bank at Chancery Street was much improved compared to many many years of previous IBAL surveys – this time around it was almost a top-ranking site. Loftus Lane was definitely better than previous surveys but not quite a top-ranking site just yet. The Car Park at Werburgh Street remains a litter blackspot – no change over the last number of years. Huge accumulations of alcohol cans had gathered in the basement of a vacant site on Lamb Alley, also a litter blackspot, as was the laneway off Thomas Street, which had been subject to dumping.

Basements on Parnell Square West: Grade B. There were some basements along this stretch which were immaculate. Others presented very poorly with a wide variety of litter present. This site has been highlighted in many previous IAL surveys.

41 Parnell Square, West: Grade A. Big improvements were noted at this site. Previously it had been a heavily littered but is currently undergoing renovations / refurbishments.

Car Park at Werburgh Street: Grade D+. This site has been a very heavily littered one over the last number of years – it isn't just a casually littered one but subject to abuse by the public and neglect by those responsible for claiming a car-park income. Many of the items appeared 'long-lie', indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time. As well as casually discarded food / alcohol litter there were pieces of wood / parts of a car clamp, to name but a few miscellaneous items.

Vacant site on Lamb Alley: Grade D. The heavy weed growth is somewhat obscuring the reality of this site. It has been used as a dumping ground for alcohol cans, very significant levels of same were present, along with mineral cans, fast-food wrappers, plastic bags and sweet wrappers. Coffee cups and plastic bottles were also present but not to the same degree.

St. John's Road: Grade A. The overall impression created along this route was a very good one with no obvious litter items. Area at base of hedges / grass verges was fine with regard to litter.

Christchurch Cathedral: Grade A. This was an immaculate site. The grounds have been recently enhanced with new observation area and beautiful flower beds / shrubbery. Paving, planting, visitor information signage etc. were all in excellent condition - very fitting for the many visitors on day of survey.

Navan Road Approach: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this approach road. The grass areas were tidy and well attended and it would seem that it is lined with house-proud owners. Graffiti was a feature on some electricity boxes.

Cork Street: Grade A. Road surface / markings / signage were in very good order along Cork Street. Overall, it was an excellent site with regards to litter. 'Plant Life' have added some welcome greenery. The overall impression created here was a very good one.

Laneway off Thomas Street: Grade D. (between Vape Island and Enable Ireland business premises) Not so much a littered site but subject to dumping – a mix of recent and 'long-lie' items. As well as regular food / alcohol items, larger items include discarded furniture, sleeping bags and blankets. The whole site was very neglected.

Thomas Street: Grade A. Thomas Street scored well with minimal litter throughout. Area has been enhanced by attractive use of on-street planters with wooden seating attached and outdoor dining facilities. Graffiti was a feature on some surfaces e.g., shutters of premises and bus shelter.

Car Park at Corner of Mary's Lane and St. Michael Street: Grade C+. While there is evidence of recent clean up and some attention, this hasn't been sufficient to shift from a heavily littered status. Litter still prevails in the grass areas at the perimeter and at kerbs. Most obvious items were food related, along with cigarette butts. There were no litter bins / litter awareness notices in the immediate area.

Laneway at Arran Street East: Grade C+. The impression created along this laneway was a poor one. As well as the heavy levels of food / alcohol litter at this site, there were pieces of cardboard. Pavements were grimy and there was significant graffiti on the walls.

Greek Street: Grade C+. While the pavements were reasonably clean, there were severe litter accumulations on the kerbs throughout, all food related items - a constant stream. The Dog Fouling bin was overflowing, the contents of which were spilling onto the ground. Litter bin was defaced, not just graffiti but discoloured.

Paradise Place: Grade B. Consistently littered on previous visits, it was not as heavy this time around. Items were food and alcohol related, along with cigarette butts. Much of the litter was around the street cones / cordoned off area.

Bottle Bank at Chancery Street: Grade B+. A hugely improved site compared to many previous IBAL surveys – this time around it just missed the top litter grade. There were too many bottle caps / lids of jars at the base of the recycle units.

Four Courts Luas Stop: Grade A. An exceptionally well presented and maintained environment – there was a complete absence of litter throughout the survey area. All aspects of the Luas stop were in very good condition e.g., signage, litter bins, seating, shelter, ticket machine etc.

Little Britain Street, Halston Street & Green Street: Grade C+. There was a constant stream of a wide variety of food and alcohol related items at this survey area. The overall impression was a very poor one. As well as typical food / alcohol litter, plastic wrapping was trapped beneath a car and a wooden pallet was sitting on the pavement. The 'No Dumping' signage was clear and legible.

Ormond Place: Grade C+. While there was a very small improvement noted here, it wasn't enough to elevate to a higher litter grade. Road surface was cracked / grimy / greasy. Overall impression was a poor one. All manner of litter was present, along with a wooden pallet and significant graffiti.

No. 22 North Frederick Street: Grade C. Frederick Street North was littered (mostly food related and dog fouling) and this site in particular, had accumulations of alcohol cans, coffee cups, plastic bottles and mineral cans, with lower levels of other items. Perhaps the 'Sale Agreed' signage will result in an improved state at some stage in the near future.

North Great George's Street: Grade B+. With a little extra this could be a top-ranking site. Cigarette butts were particularly obvious, along with lower levels of sweet papers.

21-24 Bolton Street: Grade C. There are 'works' taking place at this site and some of the litter was construction related. Food and alcohol items were very much in evidence. Graffiti was also a feature.

Loftus Lane: Grade B. The survey area was mostly around the entrance to the car parks. This site created a better impression than previous surveys. However, there was still a wide variety of food and alcohol related items present. Broken glass (seemingly broken car windows) was also a feature. Graffiti was pronounced on an electricity box and another silver surface.

Vacant Site (Blue premises) on Middle Abbey Street: Grade C+. Clearly this site requires constant attention. While it was a tiny bit better than previous surveys, it was still a heavily littered site with a large shopping basket and significant quantity of cardboard thrown into the mix.

O'Connell Street: Grade A. Dublin's main thoroughfare is certainly a credit to those responsible for the cleaning / maintenance of same. High standards of previous surveys have been maintained – it is no mean feat keeping a street as long as O'Connell Street a top-ranking site. All aspects were very freshly presented e.g., paving, bollards, litter bin, tree planting etc. The former 'Clerys' store has some teaser signage on the blocked-out windows: 'Our Gift to Dublin'.

Basement on O'Connell Street Upper: Grade D. (Beside Pass Freely Street at sign adjacent to AIB) This site wasn't just littered but subject to dumping – there were heavy levels of a wide variety of litter, mostly food related but also alcohol and cigarette butts. Other larger items included clothing and discarded boxes. Perhaps the installation of a metal grill might help? Other premises have installed them where there are litter accumulations in basements. Where does responsibility for this site lie?

Bridgefoot Street Park: Grade A. A wonderful new park environment on what was previously something of a poorly maintained miscellaneous site. This is a fantastic amenity which has been beautifully laid out with an abundance of wildflowers and soft-planting. Play equipment, seating, litter bins etc. were all in excellent condition. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed. Signage asks dog owners not to let their dogs Pee in the Beds – vegetable plot within.

St. Audeon's Park: Grade A. Another lovely city centre park environment which was beautifully laid out. All aspects within the park were in very good order e.g., signage, seating, litter bins. There was beautiful planting throughout – it was excellent with regards to litter.

Grafton Street: Grade A. Grafton Street was exceptionally busy at time of IBAL litter survey – and yet, it has managed to maintain the Grade A status of the last number of years. There is no shortage of litter bins throughout the street, along with some yellow 'recycle' bins. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the vacant / closed down premises, particularly those at the bottom of Grafton Street as there was no litter directly associated with them. It was a really clean street throughout.

St. Stephen's Green Park: Grade A. A lovely new feature of this park is the tie in with the National Concert Hall and the QR code for a 'natural listening experience'. St. Stephen's Green Park is typically a very clean site – things were no different this time around. All of the litter bins are now closed / covered eliminating the issue of birds foraging at the contents – this had been an issue in the past. There was plenty of activity within the park and despite the high usage levels, it was very much deserving of the top litter grade.