

Dundalk: 40th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Seriously Littered

With just one site out of ten getting the top litter grade, Dundalk is at the foot of the IBAL rankings. Two sites were litter blackspots - not just casually littered but subject to dumping e.g. the Clothes Recycle Bank and immediate environs on Castletown Road and the Car Park and adjacent Wasteground. A couple of sites had improved somewhat compared to previous IBAL surveys, but still had a litter presence e.g., the Recycle Facility at Tesco (R132) and the Wasteground at the corner of Maxwell and St. Nicholas.

R132 Approach, South: Grade A. (from junction with N52 to Welcome to Dundalk signage). There were no visible litter issues along this route, creating a positive first impression of Dundalk. Road / pavement surface were in good order.

Castletown Approach Road: Grade C. The area around and close to the railway bridge was reasonably clean and the coffee shop was lovely. However, further out from the town there was a steady increase in all manner of litter, mostly food related. The most obvious items were plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers with lower levels of other food items, alcohol cans, face-masks, cigarette butts and dog fouling. Much of the litter was at the base of the low-lying shrubbery which appeared as if it lacked a thorough cleaning for quite some time.

Clothes Recycle Facility & immediate environs, Castletown Road: Grade D. A small facility, just three clothing units, there were litter items under, beside and immediate behind the units, some non-recyclable items. The area behind the wall of the units had been subject to not just litter but dumping.

Castletown River Bridge & environs: Grade C. There has been little change at this site since last included in IBAL litter survey. Heavy accumulations of a wide variety of items had gathered over the bridge. This area presented very poorly.

Michael McNeela Riverwalk: Grade B+. While not quite the top litter grade, this was one of the cleaner sites surveyed in Dundalk. It is a lovely riverside amenity which was freshly presented and maintained. Apart from some dog fouling, the remainder of the litter was food related and mostly found at the benches / tables. Some of the Dog Fouling signage was blurred. With a little extra effort, this could be a top-ranking site.

Clanbrassil Street: Grade B. There was some wonderful new paving along Clanbrassil Street, creating a very fresh impression. Area was further enhanced by planting and seating areas. There was a definite litter presence, including a wide variety of food related items, dog fouling, cigarette butts and vaping devices, most notable at the street furniture.

Car Park and adjacent Wasteground: Grade D. While the car park surface was excellent, it was littered, most especially in the top corner and next to the SVP recycle bin. The regular recycle units had been brightly painted. The adjacent Wasteground had been subject to dumping, a mix of recent and 'long-lie' items. Where does responsibility for this site lie?

Wasteground at corner of Maxwell and St. Nicholas: Grade B. There was a definite improvement at this site compared to previous IBAL survey. This time around there were small amounts of litter at the boundary of the pavement and the grassy area.

Recycle Facility, Tesco (R132): Grade B. On first impressions, all looked very well, with the recycle bin units and associated notices were freshly presented. While not quite as heavily littered as before there was still a litter presence, most notably items stuffed to the side and behind the recycle bin units.

Coes Road / Butterly Business Park: Grade B+. This site just missed the top litter grade. The majority of it was good with regard to litter but it was impossible to ignore at an unmade premises on the bend, with small amounts between here and the N52. All the litter, bar cigarette butts, was food related.