

Dublin City Centre: 39th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Littered.

A rise in clean sites in our Capital was offset by an increase in heavily littered areas. While there was evidence of recent clean ups at various sites, (Laneway on Thomas Street and Arran Street East), more is required to address litter and dumping issues which have prevailed for quite some time e.g. basement at Lamb Alley, basement on O'Connell Street and a site on Parnell Square were all litter blackspots. A site which had been used as an informal 'car park' on Werburgh Street has been 'repurposed' and is currently being used to house horses – and yet the site is still dominated by litter.

As a general observation, it is great to see the increased 'on-street' opportunities to separate waste e.g. Mary Street / Henry Street and Grafton Street. The latter is a very long stretch of road which was exceptionally clean and very well presented / maintained. O'Connell Street was, again, very much deserving of the top litter grade – well done to all concerned. St. Stephen's Green Park and St. Michen's Park were lovely city centre green spaces which were in excellent order.

Garden of Remembrance: Grade A. This site was very much deserving of the top litter grade – it was in excellent condition and very well managed – fitting for such a significant environment. It was a template for a Grade A site.

Mary Street & Henry Street: Grade A. The overall impression created along this busy shopping area was a very good one. It was excellent with regards to litter. It is great to see the increased opportunities for on-street recycling. Bicycle parking area was spotless – this is often a neglected / difficult to clean area.

Ormond Quay: Grade A. A busy site with, creating a very good impression with regards to litter. When chewing gum is the only visible item, it shows that there is nothing else visible.

O'Connell Street: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented main shopping street with all expectations in very good condition e.g. paving, street bins, bicycle parking, on-street planting etc. It was pristine throughout – this is no mean feat, well done to all concerned.

Laneway on Thomas Street: Grade A. What a transformation since 2023! Clearly issues have been addressed, including the installation of a locked gate.

Westmoreland Street: Grade A. While the street was very good with regards to litter, there were some background environmental aspects which could be improved e.g. grubby bins / fly posting. Chewing gum was particularly pronounced on the old pavement.

Temple Bar: Grade A. The paving at Temple Bar Square looked very well and on-street planters were a lovely feature. As with Westmoreland Street, Temple Bar was very good with regards to litter, but other environmental features need attention e.g. huge numbers of stickers on street bins / obvious graffiti on a seemingly disused building and worn away street signage.

St. Michen's Park: Grade A. This small park is an oasis in the centre of the city. All aspects were in very good order e.g. play equipment, seating, grass areas etc. It was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Navan Road Approach: Grade A. (from Ashtown Roundabout to Cabra Rd junction). A freshly presented tree lined route, much of it passing through residential area. Individual gardens were well attended, and grass verges were in good order. A top-ranking site, as with many previous IBAL surveys.

Laneway, Arran Street East: Grade B+. The litter / dumping issue has been addressed - this time around, the overall impression was much improved, albeit the pavements were greasy / grimy – this could easily be rectified. Clearly such a location needs careful monitoring to prevent deterioration to previously heavily littered status.

Greek Street: Grade B. Litter was visible on the kerbs at playing areas and at the grounds / perimeter of residential flats. 'Poop & Scoop' facility was damaged / needs to be replaced. With a little extra effort, this could easily be a Grade A site.

21-24 Bolton Street: Grade C. This site wasn't just littered, it was subject to dumping at the gates. Heavy levels of all manner of food and alcohol related litter were present. Where does responsibility for this site lie?

Car Park, St. Mary's Lane / St. Michan's Street: Grade C. Due to the fact that much of the litter is recent / fresh, it would seem that there have been various clean-ups - but yet this remains a seriously littered site. As well as food / alcohol related litter, there were various items of clothing strewn about.

Misc. Site besides, Jarvis Luas Station: Grade C. Measures need to be taken to prevent the heavy build-up of all manner of litter behind the black fencing. Where does responsibility for this site lie?

Previous Car Park site on Werburgh Street: Grade C. Unfortunately, the change of use from a car park to an area for horses and horse-drawn carriages has not resulted in an improved litter situation. Not only is this a dreadful eye-sore for any visitors availing of the services, it is surely a cause for concern that the horses are standing in a sea of litter. Is this site regulated to house / home horses?

St. Mary's Place – Flats: Grade C. There were heavy levels of food related litter (E.g. coffee cups, plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers, mineral cans and sweet papers) at this site. The litter has made its way through the blue mesh fencing. Boarded up properties are likely to encourage further littering / anti-social behaviour.

Vacant Site: Corner of Western Way & Mountjoy Street: Grade C. A littered / dumped site, in need of attention.

Wasteground: corner of Emmet Road & South Circular Road: Grade C. While it would seem that there has been some evidence of a clean-up, there were still significant litter levels. A more pro-active approach is required to address this site.

30 Manor Street: Grade C+. The colourful mural hasn't been enough to detract from the negative impression created at this site. It was characterised by littering / dumping, broken window and graffiti.

Barrow Street: Grade C+. The footpaths were reasonably clean, but it was the kerbs which harboured the majority of the litter. Street sweeping / mechanical cleaners are not going to resolve this – it needs to be done manually. It is an on-going issue along Barrow Street i.e. requires a more thorough approach to cleaning. Any visitors to the Google offices would not be impressed by the state of Barrow Street.

Green Street & Little Britain Street: Grade C+. There was a very slight improvement at this area, but not enough to shift it any higher than Grade C+. As well as the casually discarded litter, bags of rubbish had been ripped open by wildlife / seagulls, causing even further litter.

Vacant site on Middle Abbey Street: Grade C+. An attempt has been made to address this site with the blue mesh covering – however, much of it has ripped, resulting in the items being thrown between the railings / onto the steps. Clearly a better approach is required to manage this.

56 Parnell Square: Grade D. There has been no improvement in the very severe litter situation at this site.

Basement on Lamb Alley: Grade D. The immediate area surrounding this site is fine. It's the actual building / basement which present very poorly, broken windows, huge weeds, an array of graffiti etc. All manner of food and in particular, alcohol related litter were present. Perhaps it's wishful thinking to hope that the vast quantities of alcohol cans will be a thing of the past, now that the Deposit Return Scheme has been rolled out?

Grafton Street: Grade A. An exceptionally clean main shopping street. The yellow 'circle city' recycle bins have been replaced with fresh looking bright green bins. Apart from accumulations of cigarette butts at the bicycle parking area (opposite Trinity) there was a complete absence of litter throughout. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the various 'vacant' premises as there was no litter directly associated with them. Attractive street planters looked very well.

Basement on O'Connell Street: Grade D. It would seem that there have been clean ups at this site but clearly more action is required at this site. Perhaps the installation of an iron mesh / mesh material might help?

St. Stephen's Green, Park: Grade A. The park was looking wonderful and was being enjoyed by many on a sunny evening, early May. It was an exceptionally clean environment. The 'closed' style litter bins have removed the problem of seagulls scavenging from the open style bins. All aspects of the park were in very good condition e.g. seating, signage, visitor information, bins, playground etc.