

Kilkenny: 4th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

Kilkenny has scored very well, as we have come to expect from the former IBAL multiple-winner. It has consistently been a high-ranking town for many years. With so many top-ranking sites, some are worth mentioning. Kilkenny Train Station (Exterior and Interior) was an excellent environment and clearly one where the station staff are clearly very proud of their station. Parliament Street was an exceptionally freshly presented shopping street, with attractive paving and all elements in very good order. The Bring Facility at St Canice's has often been littered in previous surveys – not so, this time around.

R712 - Paulstown Approach Road: Grade A. This route creates a very positive first impression of Kilkenny - this high standard was sustained for all, bar one of the remaining sites surveyed. The area was very well presented and maintained, with a virtual absence of litter throughout.

Kilkenny Railway Station – Exterior: Grade A. The exterior of the station was freshly presented with car park surface, markings, paving, railings, entrance etc. in good order. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the survey area.

Kilkenny Train Station – Interior: Grade A. It is clear that there is great pride in the station, based on the various awards / plaques / diplomas / items of historical interest displayed on the walls. Visitor information notices were neatly displayed beneath. Seating, tiling, station signage and litter bin were in very good condition. Overall, this was a very worthy top-ranking site.

Riverbank, with Pedestrian Bridge: Grade A. A lovely riverside environment which presented very well. The recently cut grass indicates maintenance. This site got the top litter grade, but only just – hopefully any loose litter items are collected being the strong wind blows items into the water.

'Skate Park': Grade A. There were some lovely features surrounding the skate park e.g. attractive 'olde' style streetlamps, tree planting and grass perimeter. It goes without saying that graffiti has made its way on to every surface. There was a virtual absence of litter.

Car Park - Abbey Quarter: Grade B. Signage indicates that parking is for Abbey Quarter only, with no public access. This large expanse of car park appears to be freshly presented with excellent car park surface / markings. Litter grade was brought down by food related items e.g. sweet papers and fast-food wrappers, along with pieces of small plastic.

Bring Facility, St. Canice's: Grade A. From time to time in previous IBAL surveys this small facility had been littered – not so this time around. There were no items stuffed between / behind, as so often happens at such facilities. The recycle bins were freshly presented and the signage associated with the use of same was in good order.

'Watergate' - abandoned pub: Grade A. While there were items of historical interest in the window display, the overall presentation was poor, with peeling paint etc. Clearly a careful eye is kept on this site as there was no litter directly associated with it.

Parliament Street: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented main shopping environment with all features in very good order. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout. The overall impression was very impressive.

Old Callan / Stephen Street Approach: Grade A. The recently surfaced paving creates a very fresh impression along this approach route. There were no visible litter issues throughout.