

An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Survey 2, 2024

Dublin Airport Environs: Clean to European Norms. 24th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

Dublin Airport Environs has dipped somewhat compared to its typical higher ranking – this time around there were six top ranking sites, along with three seriously littered ones. The approach roads were well presented and maintained with almost all deserving the top litter grade. The heavily littered sites tended to be smaller and easier to target for the purposes of cleaning up e.g. Area adjacent to the Coachman's Inn / at the approach to Halpenny Golf Driving Range, Improvised Lay-by on Old Airport Road (no improvement on previous IBAL visit) and Lay By on Naul Road.

Approach to M1 from M50 from North bound exit: Grade A. A welcoming impression was created along this busy and fast-moving route. All aspects were in good condition – road surface / markings / signage and the grass verges had been recently cut.

Approach to Airport Roundabout from M1 Approach: Grade B. It would seem that the recent maintenance / landscaping has revealed some 'long-lie' litter items at the base of the shrubbery e.g. plastic wrapping, as well as food related items. Not much effort is required to bring up this site's grade.

Airport Roundabout: Grade A. This site is typically top ranking, and things were no different this time around, creating a very welcoming impression for any visitors to Dublin. Colourful planting at the roundabout creates a lovely display.

Dublin Road - from Airport Roundabout: Grade A. This road creates an excellent impression – there were no visible litter issues throughout, the bus-stops were particularly clear of litter. Evidence of plenty of maintenance e.g. recently cut grass verges and council worker operating at time of survey.

Area adjacent to the Coachman's Inn / at the approach to Halpenny Golf Driving Range: Grade C. The overall impression was a very poor one and it is well on its way to a litter black spot if not addressed. It wasn't just casually littered but bags of rubbish / cardboard / large plastic containers were all present. The border of the car park was heavily littered with regular food related items. This site needs attention. Where does responsibility for this site lie?

Improvised Lay-by on Old Airport Road: Grade C. It would seem that this site is used by 'plane spotters. There has been little change since this site was highlighted in previous IBAL surveys – a heavy litter presence prevailed, with a wide variety of food related items and cigarette butts present. While there was one large wheely bin, there didn't appear to be any Litter Awareness notices – the provision of same might help.

R132 Swords Road: Grade A. This site was very much deserving of the top litter grade. The overall impression was of a litter free road, with the bus-stops well served by litter bins and clear of litter. Grass verges and pavements created a clean impression.

Naul Road: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this route, overall impression was generally a good one. Grassland areas were well maintained.

Lay By on Naul Road: Grade C+. A freshly presented environment with car parking surface / markings and 'Big Belly' bin in good condition – the Dublin Airport signage on the latter has an illustration asking the public not to feed the birds. Sweet papers and cigarette butts were the most common items, with lower levels of fast-food wrappers – much of the litter was the base of the green fencing, both sides of the fence.

Approach to M1 from Airport Roundabout to Blanchardstown: Grade A. As with previous IBAL surveys, this route creates a very good impression. Apart from some plastic ties on poles at roundabout, there were no other litter issues noted.