

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

Dundalk: Clean to European Norms. 20th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

With just one heavily littered site, Dundalk's overall ranking is much improved compared to just a year previous. There were five top ranking sites, and the remainder were moderately littered. Examples of top ranking sites included the approach routes, Michael McNeela Riverside Walkway and Clanbrassil Street – the latter was a freshly presented town centre environment with all elements in good order.

Castletown River & Bank: Grade C. While there appeared to be a slight improvement in the litter levels, they were still high levels of a wide variety of food related and other items e.g. newspapers / miscellaneous items. There was a mix of both 'recent' and 'long-lie' items. Unless addressed, this is likely to deteriorate and attract further items.

Michael McNeela Riverside Walkway: Grade A. A lovely riverside environment with freshly cut grasslands, clean pavements, PE equipment and tree planting. There was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Clothes Bank, Newry Road: Grade B. Not much effort is required for this small facility to get the top litter grade. Discarded clothing and plastic bags took away from an otherwise well presented facility. There was no dumping to the rear of the facility, as frequently happens.

M1 & N52 from Dublin direction: Grade A. This route creates a very positive first impression of Dundalk. It was an exceptionally freshly presented route with road surface / markings / signage in very good order. There were no visible litter issues.

Castletown Road: Grade A. Another approach route into Dundalk which was very much deserving of the top litter grade. The residential stretch of the road was certainly in very good order.

Tesco: Grade B+. Generally, this was a very well presented and maintained site with nicely landscaped area, with seating, beside the water feature. Much of the area was very good with regards to litter but the litter grade was brought down by some in the loading bay and the water feature.

Clanbrassil Street: Grade A. The overall impression created along this street was a very fresh and clean one with attractive paving / large planter boxes / outdoor seating etc used to good effect. The outdoor dining areas were clear of litter. Small vape stickers were on litter bins.

The Longwalk Shopping Centre: Grade B+. This is another site which just missed the top litter grade. A more thorough approach to cleaning around the base of the hedges / grass verges could easily address this. Signage / paving / litter bins / etc were in good order.

Recycle Facility at Tesco: Grade B+. The glass / can units were in good condition and the overall impression to the front was a positive one. It was the items to the rear of the units which brought down the overall litter grade.

Carrickmacross Approach Road: Grade A. There were no litter issues along this route which passes through some attractive red brick buildings / terraced houses.