

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

Wexford: Clean to European Norms. 22nd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed.

A town with seven top ranking sites would typically score higher than Wexford town has – the presence of a litter blackspot and a heavily littered site brings down the overall ranking – the Bring Facility at Tesco Extra and Rope Walk Car Park. These have both been highlighted in previous IBAL litter surveys, with no obvious improvements. Top ranking sites included Selskar Street (exceptionally clean), the residential area of Westgate Park and the Quay / Riverwalk – a wonderful feature in the heart of the town which is always very well presented and maintained with all features in very good condition – a recent addition was the '*Linte na Farrai*ge' Climate display on the art gallery premises.

Approach from M11 - New Ross Roundabout direction: Grade A. The overall impression created along this route was a positive and welcoming one. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout. Extensive road works have taken place resulting in a particularly fresh appearance.

Selskar Street: Grade A. One is struck walking along this busy pedestrianised shopping street at how exceptionally clean it is - a credit to those not dropping their litter and those responsible for the cleaning of same. There was a good mix of regular street bins and the opportunity to separate 'green' recyclables adjoining.

Rope Walk Car Park: Grade C+. There was fairly new (May 2024) Retention Planning Application notice at the vehicular entrance and fresh signage relating to updated car park charges. Everything else within this street level car park was old / tired / poorly presented, with significant levels of graffiti on the former car park attendant office. There was persistent litter, mostly food and alcohol related, around the perimeter of the car park, along with dog fouling.

Deposit Return Scheme, Dunnes Stores: Grade A. A 'stand-alone' facility in the car park - there were no litter issues associated with the use of the facility.

'Bring Facility' at Tesco Extra: Grade D+. All was fine with the bottle / can units. It was solely the numerous clothing bin units which brought down the litter grade. As well as several bags of dumped clothing between the units, there were large volumes of clothing hanging out of each of the units, along with items stuffed between and on top. As well as usual facility signage, there was an 'audio recording' reminding users how to use the facility.

Riverwalk - The Quay: Grade A. Not only was this extensive site excellent with regards to litter, all aspects were in excellent condition e.g. seating / life-belts / visitor information notices / bicycle parking / drinking water fountain etc. Area was enhanced by Art mosaics at each end. The former tourist office has recently opened as an 'Art' space, a lovely addition to the area. The '*Linte na Farrai*ge' Climate display was on the Art space.

Westgate Park: Grade A. All was in good order and this residential development. As well as regular vehicular access, there as a pedestrian pathway leading to Wexford Tower and onwards to the town centre. Despite heavy weed growth in the immediate area beside Wexford Tower, it wasn't littered.

Wexford Retail Park: Grade B. The overall impression at this retail park was a somewhat littered one, with litter more pronounced on the grass / base of the trees on the left side as one goes further into the development. The whole area felt like it lacked a thorough cleaning in quite some time and was well on its way to seriously littered status. Road surface was poor, heavily pot-holed. There didn't appear to be obvious retail park signage at the entrance - it was only by looking up individual store names did it become apparent what it is called. No bins at store entrances or seemingly throughout the retail park.

R733 Arhurstown Approach Road: Grade A. (from Pembroke Hill Roundabout) - This route mostly passes through residential area - no obvious litter issues throughout. Recent grass cutting on the left hand side gives a general impression of maintenance.

Rosslare Approach Road: Grade A. A freshly presented route with road / bicycle surfaces in good order and clear markings / signage. There were no visible litter issues on this route. Closer to the town centre there was attractive planted / landscaped area on the left hand side.