

An Taisce Report - IBAL Anti-Litter League, Survey 1, 2025

Athlone: 18th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A very solid performance by Athlone with six out of the ten sites surveyed getting the top litter grade. These included Ballymahon Approach Road, The Strand and Athlone Town Centre & Environs – the latter was a very worthy Grade A site. By far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Athlone was the Vacant Property on Southern Station Road (close to Bus Eireann) – not only was it heavily littered, but it also presents poorly.

Vacant Property on Southern Station Road: Grade C. (close to Bus Eireann) This was by far the most heavily littered site surveyed in Athlone. It presents poorly with a wide variety of food and other miscellaneous items. It is likely to deteriorate further, if not addressed.

Athlone Town Centre & Environs: Grade A. This was an immaculate site. The pavements / outdoor public spaces / seating areas were freshly presented, and all was in excellent order. It was spotless throughout and very much deserving of top litter grade.

The Bases of the Piers of Athlone Town Bridge: Grade B. (Where the foundations meet the water). While the main bridge in Athlone was clear of litter, there was a definite litter presence underneath, within the greenery, at the base of the various structures which support the bridge. These are most likely awkward to access and consequently to clean, but should be considered, as further items may well accumulate and these may well end up within the water.

R446 / Church Street: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along Church Street, with the individual units in good order. The area was attractively paved, albeit some stretches were grimy. Vape stickers were very much a feature on the street bins - while not necessarily considered a litter item, they are unsightly.

Preaching Lane: Grade B+. There was a light, but obvious, litter presence along this laneway. Main items were sweet papers and other small scraps of paper. There was no litter directly associated with the single clothing bank unit. With a little extra care and attention this could easily be a top ranking site.

Memorial at Adamson Centre, Castle Street: Grade B. A mix of 'long-lie' and recent food related litter has become trapped at the steps at the rear of the Memorial to fallen heroes. A more thorough approach to the cleaning of same could easily address this. The litter may not be so obvious to the those passing by from the street pavement, but anybody on the steps couldn't miss it.

The Strand: Grade A. The paving along this waterside feature was exceptionally freshly presented. All was in very good order with regards to litter. The only visible item within the water was a traffic cone. The overall impression was a very positive one.

Ballymahon Approach Road: Grade A. All was in good order along this route, creating a positive first impression of Athlone. Road surface / markings / signage were in good order. There were no visible litter issues.

Castle Street: Grade A. A lovely town-centre environment with some attractive buildings in the immediate area and plenty of 'outdoor' dining. There was a virtual absence of litter, cigarette butts were the only obvious items.

Bus Eireann: Grade A. The car park area was freshly presented, others slightly less so. This site got the top litter grade, but only just. Cigarette butts were definitely a feature and there was an abandoned shopping trolley.