

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

Dublin City Centre:

Considerable improvements were noted at sites previously deemed as heavily littered, among them sites on Middle Abbey Street, a basement on O'Connell Street, Frederick Street and a site beside Jervis Luas. The main shopping thoroughfares of O'Connell Street, Henry Street and Grafton Street were all very much deserving of the top litter grade, not just excellent with regards to litter, but the overall presentation and maintenance of same was very good. A 'heavily littered' former Car Park at Werburgh Street featured long-lie litter – this may well be a thing of the past if this site is part of the major DCC archaeological works taking place in the immediate environs. The residential area of Dominic Lane had heavy levels of scattered litter throughout the road / pavements and within the 'wasteland'. A basement at Parnell Square was another blackspot.

St. Stephen's Green Park: Grade A. This 'Green Flag' park is typically very much deserving of the top litter grade and things were no different this time around. There is excellent colourful signage relating to 1916 throughout the park - fitting for such a significant location. The whole park was excellent with regards to litter. Signage 'No feeding of ducks / birds at the pond.

Grafton Street: Grade A. An exceptionally clean and well presented main shopping street environment with substantial planter boxes contributing to the overall impression created. It was served by plenty of litter bins, some of which were adapted with a 'shelf' to accommodate cans / bottles (ideally to prevent scavenging for same). Grafton Street was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Dame Street: Grade A. Apart from an abundance of stickers on various street poles and a smattering of graffiti, Dame Street was looking very well with regards to litter. A large wheely bin was being foraged by seagulls, perhaps a potential litter situation.

College Green: Grade A. This busy city centre site, a focal / gathering point for many tourists, presented very well. All aspects were in very good order, and it was very much deserving of the top litter grade.

Garden of Remembrance: Grade A. There was a complete absence of litter throughout this small, but important park environment. It has, fittingly, been lovingly attended with all elements in excellent order e.g. painted blue & gold railings, shrubbery, seating etc. There were plenty of 'olde' style wooden bins interspersed within the seating areas. It was a template for a Grade A site. A complete absence of litter throughout.

56 Parnell Square: Grade D+. Planning permission notice relates to June 2024, somebody is 'claiming ownership of this site. There were loose litter items behind railings at the street level, but it was the dumping within the basement which really brought down the litter grade - much of it appeared 'long-lie', indicating a lack of thorough cleaning for quite some time.

Parnell House: Grade C+. From street level, the front of these 'To Let' buildings are presented very well with lovely red brick work and no litter issues. It was let down by the casually discarded food / alcohol related items in the basement, this with two street bins within spitting distance of the buildings.

Basement on O'Connell Street: Grade B. This site had been a very heavily littered one in previous IBAL Surveys - not so, this time around. There was evidence of 'clean up' with a series of sacks of rubbish, underneath the stairwell in the basement. This much improved site had loose levels of alcohol cans, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers. Hopefully this considerable improvement can be maintained.

O'Connell Street: Grade A. O'Connell Street was exceptionally clean, this is an extraordinary feat for such a long, wide and heavily used street. There were some lovely features throughout, excellent paving, sculptures, items of historic note and tree planting. It is a credit to those responsible for the maintenance of same that it was so clean - at various stages throughout the morning.

72 Middle Abbey Street: Grade A. This is another formerly heavily littered site which has shown considerable improvement, resulting in the top litter grade. Planning permission notice relates to December 2024, somebody 'claiming ownership' of same. A large sign covers the entire front railings

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and mesh net has been placed over the basement, resulting in no opportunity for littering / dumping, as was previously the case. Well done for taking such active measures.

22 Frederick Street, North: Grade A. Planning permission is very recent (May 2025) with hoarding installed over the basement, resulted in this area no longer being accessible for littering / dumping. A much improved situation compared to IBAL 2024 surveys. While the building itself presents very poorly, it was not a littered one.

8 Frederick Street, North: Grade C. 'CCTV in Operation' signage was affixed to the hall door and adjoining wall. There was no litter behind the railings at street level, but it was the basement which had heavy accumulations of loose food and alcohol related litter. It wasn't necessarily large scale dumping but only likely to attract further littering, if not addressed. Weed growth was pronounced.

30 Frederick Street, North: Grade B. This formerly heavily littered / dumped upon site, is boarded up / some graffiti but was only subject to loose, casually discarded items in the basement. Clearly somebody must be keeping an eye on the situation. There were two flimsy chains at the bottom of the few steps.

Henry Street: Grade A. This was another exceptionally clean city centre shopping street. It wasn't just lack of litter, but the paving / overall presentation was very good. Plenty of litter bins throughout. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the various closed down / shuttered premises as there was no litter directly associated with them. Lovely tree planting throughout. Street cleaners in evidence at time of IBAL visit.

Liffey Street Lower: Grade A. Extensive enhancement works have taken place along this city centre shopping street, resulting in a very attractively laid out environment. The paving / wooden seating / planted areas looked very well. The whole street was very good with regards to litter.

Site Beside Jervis Luas: Grade A. While this site had scored poorly in previous IBAL surveys, it has since been boarded up and is now a building site. The hoarding was covered in graffiti, but overall, this wasn't a littered site.

North Lotts: Grade C. Graffiti was very pronounced on many surfaces throughout this site. Alcohol related litter was the most obvious type, with significant food related presence as well. Other items included pieces of wood and discarded cardboard box. The overall impression along North Lotts was a poor one.

Wolfe Tone Square: Grade A. A beautifully laid out / landscaped public realm with lovely paving, seating and planting. The latter was being attended to at the time of IBAL visit. There was a complete absence of litter throughout this lovely space.

21-23 Bolton Street: Grade C. Most recent planning permission date relates to February 2025 - somebody is 'claiming ownership' of same. The base of the metal fencing surrounding this site was clear of litter, but the visible area had heavy accumulations of a wide variety of food / alcohol and other miscellaneous items behind the 'No Entry' sign.

Green Street / Little Britain Street: Grade C+. The stretch of Green Street with Citizens Advice was freshly presented, with minimal litter. As one went towards Green Street Court House building levels of litter increased considerably, both along the pavement and behind the railings of the courthouse building. Gas Canisters were also a feature along the pavement and there were several incidents of graffiti. Little Britain Street had significant levels of broken glass.

Car park at Mary's Lane / St. Mihcan's Street: Grade A. A very freshly presented car park environment, with all aspects in very good order and no litter issues.

Chancery Street Bring Facility: Grade A. A cleverly designed facility with the recycle bin units behind fencing, with just the apertures exposed at street level, reducing the opportunity to 'stuff' items between / behind the recycle units, as so often happens at such facilities. The signage associated with the use of same was covered in graffiti, but it wasn't a littered environment.

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Former Car Park, Werburgh Street: Grade C+. This former car park is now closed / locked up and mesh netting has been placed around the fencing, making it less likely for litter to be thrown through the fencing. There were still some residual food and alcohol related items visible behind the fence. DCC Signage directly beside this site indicates archaeological works being undertaken and the historic nature of the immediate environs.

Drumcondra Road, Lower: Grade A. This route presented very well with regards to litter, with attractive on-street planters and house-proud gardens.

Clontarf Road: Grade A. A very freshly presented road with clean pavements, kerbs, road surfaces and cycle pathway. It was commendable, a template for Grade A site.

Old Cabra Road: Grade B+. Much of this route presented well, but it was let down by some casually discarded items (cardboard boxes / plastic bags) close to Doyles Corner.

Drumcondra Road, Upper: Grade B+. Not much effort is required for this road to get the top litter grade. An old / long-lie litter accumulation at a gateway beside new housing development / opposite The Viscount brought down the result.

St. John's Road: Grade C. There were heavy levels of a wide variety of litter along the hedges of the road divides, a mix of recent and 'long-lie' items. The overall impression was quite poor. The stretch closer to Heuston Station presented well.

Dominic Lane: Grade D. The laneway was heavily littered with casually discarded food and alcohol related items. The base of the fencing at the 'wasteland' site was strewn with all manner of litter. Large scale items / dumping had taken place within the 'wasteland' site.