

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

Kilkenny: 16th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

It will be a disappointment to all concerned that there were just four top ranking sites this time around in Kilkenny. There were several which just missed this grade – easily achievable with a little extra care and attention e.g. McDonagh Junction Shopping Centre / Ionad Fag Anseo Bring Centre / McDonagh / Kilkenny Train Station. The presence of a couple of seriously littered sites – at Lidl Smithsland - will have brought down the overall grade but both of these should be an easy fix.

Ionad Fag Anseo Bring Centre: Grade B+. The overall impression created at this Bring Facility was generally a good one with bin units and signage associated with the use of same in very good order. However, there were too many loose litter items at the side of / back of the units for the top litter grade. A more thorough approach to the collection system could easily address this.

Kilkenny Castle Park: Grade A. Not only was this popular attraction for visitors and locals alike very good with regards to litter, but it was excellent in terms of overall presentation and maintenance. It was lovely to see so many biodiversity related features e.g. bat and bird boxes / 'bees at work' / pollinators areas etc, a credit to those responsible for same. Well done to all concerned.

Lacken - River Walk: Grade B. A lovely riverside facility, particularly the boardwalk section which starts half way along the full walk. There was plenty of signage re 'no alcohol' / anti-litter / dog fouling and dog poop and scoop facility. All were in good order, bar some graffiti. Some food related litter, particularly close to the seating, and some dog fouling, prevented the top litter grade.

Lidl, Smithsland: Grade C+. The planted areas were a lovely feature at this Lidl, but the site was let down by a very definite litter presence at the pedestrian entrance to the car park and some litter in the planting border. The most obvious items were fast-food wrappers and cigarette butts, with lower levels of coffee cups and sweet wrappers. The overflowing litter bin certainly didn't help the situation.

McDonagh Junction Shopping Centre: Grade B+. This building has been very well preserved, and area was enhanced by attractive paving, lovely sculptures, seating and large planter boxes. All looked very well. Site was let down by the skip outside Lifestyle Sports which presented poorly and was being used as a bin – the contents of which were very exposed and ripe for the picking.

R693 Talbots Inch Approach Road: Grade A. There was a virtual absence of litter along this route. Overall impression was a positive one with road surface / markings in good condition.

Deposit Return Facility, Lidl, Smithsland: Grade C+. It is quite unusual to see a Deposit Return Scheme so heavily littered. The 'excess liquid' feature had at least half a dozen bottles / cans sitting within, there was a cardboard box on the ground just in front and a generally heavy litter presence in the immediate environs. Perhaps the provision for 'Reject' items might help?

McDonagh / Kilkenny Train Station: Grade B+. A more thorough approach to cleaning could easily lift this site to Grade A status. Occasional items were on the train tracks and around the car park verge, particularly cigarette butts, with lower levels of sweet wrappers and chewing gum.

Cashel Downs Estate: Grade A. The residential area of Cashel Downs was very much deserving of the top litter grade. Not only was it very good with regards to litter, the overall presentation and maintenance was excellent.

High Street: Grade A. The streetscape along High Street was excellent with lovely paving, wooden seating, planter boxes, etc. All looked very well and there was a virtual absence of litter throughout. Area appears to be very well served by cigarette butt units and there were no butts visible.