

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

Wexford: 17th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A very solid performance by Wexford with eight out of the ten sites surveyed scoring very well. These included the approach roads, North Main Street (an incredibly clean shopping street), Riverwalk / Quay (a lovely waterside amenity with all aspects in excellent order) and 'The Rocks' Heritage Trail. As with the last few years, there are two sites which have been consistently heavily littered, bringing down the overall ranking for the town: Rope Walk Car Park remains heavily littered and Bring Facility, Tesco was not just littered but dumped upon.

Rosslare Approach Road: Grade A. This route creates a very positive first impression of Wexford town. Apart from a derelict house on the left hand side at the 'Welcome to Wexford' signage, all appeared in good order. There were no obvious litter items throughout. Road surface / markings / signage were in very good condition.

Deposit Return Scheme, Aldi, Rosslare Road: Grade A. This in-store facility was spotless. There was a 'Rejected items' unit as part of the facility - there were no litter items in the area immediately surrounding the facility.

'The Rocks' Heritage Trail: Grade A. A lovely trail / park environment with a series of interconnecting pathways set in mature planting. Seating / picnic tables were dotted throughout. Excellent visitor information signage at locations of historic interest. This site is a real gem, with magnificent views, just minutes from Wexford town centre.

Riverwalk / The Quay: Grade A. As with so many previous IBAL surveys, this extensive riverside environment was very much deserving of the top litter grade - it was spotless throughout. All aspects were in excellent order e.g. visitor information notices / drinking water fountain / bicycle parking / tree planting / life belts etc. Lovely art mosaics at the Bridge end, along with information pertaining to Wexford Blue Whale and associated QR code.

Approach from direction of New Ross Road Roundabout: Grade A. A fresh and welcoming approach with no obvious litter issues throughout. The expanse of bicycle path / pavement looked very well.

North Main Street: Grade A. This long stretch of mostly pedestrianised shopping was exceptionally good with regards to litter - the only visible items were cigarette butts. While there were vacant / closed down premises, some of them were part of the 'shopfront improvement scheme' (adorned with photographs / items of historical & natural interest), and this helped to reduce the visual impact of same.

Rope Walk Car Park: Grade C. There has been little change to the litter status over the last number of IBAL visits with litter seemingly a low priority for those running / managing this car park. The main car park surface area was generally fine, but the perimeter harboured heavy levels of a wide variety of food and alcohol related items, along with some bedding. Broken glass was also a feature at the vehicular entrance and there was graffiti on a wide variety of surfaces.

Bring Facility, Tesco: Grade D+. The front of the bottle / can units presented with bin units in good order and signage fresh and clean. However, a duvet was hanging out of one of the clothing units with substantial bedding material on the ground beneath. The area to the side and rear of the units had suffered from significant dumping of bags of rubbish and miscellaneous items.

Selsker / WWETB College: Grade A. The area which fronts the street and the area visible through the railings was excellent with regards to litter. 'No Smoking' signage was affixed to the building, and this appeared to be heeded as there were no cigarette butts.

Wexford Arts Centre – Exterior: Grade A. This is a lovely environment which is enhanced by attractive planting / seating close to a memorial. An air of calm pervades this space. Gable wall of adjoining house was adorned with colourful mural painting - 'Walls of Wexford'.