

Carlow: 33rd out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Moderately littered.

Little change to note in Carlow, which remains one of the most littered towns surveyed. There were five top ranking sites but the presence of two very poor sites very much brings down the overall ranking. Four Lakes Retail Park was excellent in terms of presentation and litter, very fresh clean and welcoming. This is in sharp contrast to the Recycle Facility within which wasn't just casually littered but subject to dumping. Another very poor site in Carlow was the Car Park and surrounds at Mr Price Branded Bargains – it was in a very poor state, most notably the litter accumulations along the bank adjacent to the river. An abandoned site on Mill Lane had been used as a dumping ground when surveyed in 2019 – this was no longer the case. The residential area of 'The Orchards' was excellent in terms of presentation and litter, with lovely mature planting throughout.

Four Lakes Retail Park: Grade A. An excellent site in terms of presentation and litter. There was colourful planting and grass at the entrance, creating a positive first impression. This was sustained throughout the area surveyed. Car park surface, markings, signage and bollards, bins etc. were in very good condition.

Recycle Facility at Four Lakes Retail Park: Grade D. This wasn't just a littered site but subject to dumping. Several bags had been dumped to the front and rear of the units, along with a suitcase and other miscellaneous items. This facility is in sharp contrast to the presentation of the car park at Four Lakes Retail Park.

Brownhill Court: Grade B+. Much of this residential area was in good order with regard to litter and presentation but it was let down by some food related litter items at the end of the estate in the hedges beside the grasslands. With a little extra care and attention this could easily be a top ranking site.

The Orchards: Grade A. A beautifully presented and maintained residential development with attractive planting throughout. It was excellent with regard to litter. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order.

Tullow Street: Grade C+. Tullow Street is very mixed with the stretch of new paving presenting very well and associated streetscape in very good order. The remainder was not so good in terms of presentation and litter. There were numerous vacant / boarded up properties, some presenting very poorly. Cigarette butts had gathered in large accumulations, most notably beside a drain and fast-food related littered had been casually abandoned at outdoor seating area. Chewing gum was also pronounced with lower levels of other food related items and face-masks / gloves.

Athy Approach Road: Grade A. A clean and tidy route leading into Carlow with Athy Road Roundabout presenting very well – attractively landscaped and signage in good order. The grass verges had been recently tended and the overall impression was a positive one.

Premises on Mill Lane: Grade A. A big clean has taken place as this was a very poor site in IBAL 2019. Perhaps the 'CCTV in Operation' signage is having the desired effect.

Car Park and Surrounds at Mr Price Branded Bargains: Grade D. There was litter throughout this site, mostly food related items and cigarette butts. Heavy accumulations had gathered in the shrubbery area and along the banks beside the adjacent river and bags of rubbish had been abandoned.

Potato Market: Grade B. The paving, visitor information signage and bins were in good order, but this site was let down by a very definite litter presence, mostly food related, with heavy levels of cigarette butts. Care needs to be taken to ensure that this site doesn't become a seriously littered one.

R448 – Approach from M9 (Dublin): Grade A. An excellent route in terms of presentation and litter. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order. The roundabout was full of abundant colourful planting.