

Waterford City: 9th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Cleaner than European Norms.

The local authority in Waterford deserves particular credit for having cleaned up sites which were highlighted previously as heavily littered. Among the top ranking sites, Plunkett Train Station wasn't just a functional facility but a welcoming one with historical notices and colourful planting immediately visible for any arriving visitors; Clearly the Bus Station takes littering very seriously, as evidenced by the abundant 'anti-litter notices' throughout a small area – it was certainly a very clean site. Bolton Street Car Park was excellent, with some artistic visitor information (quite unusual for a city centre car park); the grounds of Waterford Court House were beautifully presented and maintained – excellent with regard to litter; Medieval Quarter continues to be an exceptionally well presented and maintained area which was spotless throughout. The poorer ranking sites in Waterford City didn't get in to this state overnight, most notably a site on Michael Street, behind red gates and a Miscellaneous site on R683 heading towards Ardkeen Roundabout – the latter, in particular presents very poorly and is liable to further build ups if not addressed. The Bring Centre at Glen Car Park wasn't just casually littered but items had been dumped to the front and rear of the recycle units.

R675 Tramore Approach Road: Grade A. The road surface, markings and signage were in good order and the overall impression created along this road was a good one with regard to litter.

Ferrybank Approach – Dock Road: Grade A. This heavily trafficked route was generally fine with regard to litter (see decommissioned TOP garage as a separate site). Care needs to be taken at a recessed area on the right, as one drives towards Waterford, as it had the beginnings of loose scatterings of litter, not enough to bring down the litter grade but could do so if not curtailed.

Decommissioned TOP Garage on Dock Road: Grade B. The former garage presented poorly with litter both within and immediately outside – a variety of food related litter and other miscellaneous items. This site is well on its way to being a seriously littered site if not addressed.

R710 Airport Roundabout to University Hospital Waterford: Grade B+. Road surface, markings and signage presented well. Food related litter items (plastic bottles, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers) in the direction out from the hospital towards the roundabout took away from an otherwise good site.

Bolton Street Public Car Park: Grade A. A lovely feature at this city centre car park was the artistic 'visitor information' notice – it wasn't just informative but attractive and creative. There was a novel facility for the collection of plastic bottles close to this signage. There was a virtual absence of litter throughout the extensive car park area.

Waterford Court House Environs: Grade A. The grounds of the Court House were excellent both in terms of presentation and litter. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order.

People's Park: Grade B+. A beautiful town / city centre park environment with a wide variety of facilities within e.g. tea-rooms, a couple of playgrounds, boules, pitches, picnic tables, etc – all of which were very well presented and maintained. However, it was the litter in the immediate area of the skateboard park which brought down the litter grade – mostly plastic bottles, cans, sweet papers and coffee cups.

Area outside Bus Eireann Depot, Dock Road: Grade B. The low-lying shrubbery / planting directly outside the Bus Eireann depot had a definite litter presence. Much of it appeared 'long lie' as evidenced by rusty cans. There was a wide variety of food related litter items. Where does responsibility for the cleaning / maintenance of this site lie?

'Bring Centre' outside Bus Eireann Depot, Dock Road: Grade A. This facility has been reconfigured and cleaned up considerably since last surveyed for IBAL in 2019. The newspaper recycle facility was flush against the wall with no opportunity for 'stuffing' items behind it, as can so often happen. Apart from some minor broken glass on the ground, this bring centre was deserving of the top litter grade.

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R448 Newrath Approach Road: Grade A. A clean and tidy approach road, creating a positive first impression of Waterford City. Road surface, markings and signage were in good order.

'Bring Centre' at Glen Car Park: Grade C. This small facility wasn't just casually littered but bags of items had been left in front of and to the rear of the recycle units. As well as the bags of items there were heavy levels of loose litter on the ground in the immediate vicinity of the recycle bins. A poor site, overall.

Ardkeen Shopping Centre Car Park: Grade A. A very freshly presented and maintained car park environment which was excellent with regard to litter. The area was enhanced with abundant planting. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order.

Waterford Bus Station: Grade A. There is no doubt that Waterford Bus Station takes littering very seriously, as evidenced by the very high number of 'anti-littering' notices throughout a small area. It was spotless throughout. The low-lying planting looked very well.

Plunkett Train Station: Grade A. As with many previous IBAL Surveys this site was very much deserving of the top litter grade. It creates a very welcoming presence for any visitors arriving to Waterford by train – it wasn't just a functional facility but had items of historic interest and some lovely colourful planting. It is a credit to the station staff for consistently maintaining such a high standard.

Miscellaneous site on R683 heading towards Ardkeen Roundabout: Grade C. This is an abandoned warehouse site – old signage 'Woodpecker floors & tiles' – which presents very poorly. It didn't get into this poor state overnight and will only deteriorate further if not addressed. Discarded black sack and other large items were immediately evident.

Penrose Street: Grade A. A much improved site from IBAL 2019 when it ranked poorly. The loading bay was clear of litter and there was a virtual absence of litter throughout the remainder of the street. There were several boarded-up properties and plenty of graffiti throughout.

Medieval Quarter: Grade A. A large expanse of a variety of historic buildings and interconnecting pedestrian pathways – an exceptionally well presented and maintained environment. It was absolutely spotless throughout.

Riverwalk: Grade A. (from Tower Hotel to Vincent Wallace Plaza). A lovely riverside environment which has been attractively presented – it was excellent with regard to litter. All aspects of the area surveyed were in very good condition e.g. sculpture, visitor information signage, seating, paving, planting etc.

Hanover Street: Grade A. A short city centre street with wonderful old building which has been very well preserved. The streetscape was excellent e.g. paving, seating, planting etc. and there was a complete absence of litter throughout.

Michael Street: Grade A. There were no litter issues at Michael Street – it was very freshly presented with all aspects in very good condition.

Miscellaneous site on Michael Street: Grade C. A small site, behind red railings, which has accumulations of a wide variety of litter and other random items. An air of neglect prevails at this one site, in the midst of Michael Street which was excellent.

Pedestrian Pathway on Railway Road: Grade B+. Much of this pathway is slightly raised above the road. Cigarette butts were the main litter items with lower levels of plastic bottles, cans and sweet papers.

Barronstrand: Grade A. A lovely city centre environment, vibrant with outdoor market and café seating area. Despite plenty of activity it still remained very good with regard to litter. It has been very attractively laid out and all aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order.

Waterford Retail Park: Grade A. An exceptionally freshly presented environment with all aspects of the area surveyed in very good order e.g. car park surface, markings, signage, paving, bins, tree

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planting etc. It was excellent with regard to litter. It is only a pity that the adjoining field at the end is so heavily littered and hopefully it doesn't blow over the fence into the retail park.

Six Cross Road Business Park: Grade A. It is unusual to see a business park so freshly presented and maintained. Usually they area of a more functional nature, but not this one – it was a very nicely laid out environment and there was a complete absence of litter throughout the area surveyed.

Waterford – Gorey connecting road: Grade A. A long stretch of road, via New Ross, there were stretches which were somewhat littered but long stretches which were very good with regard to litter. Overall, it was deserving of the top litter grade.