

IBAL coastal survey 2021 - An Taisce summary comments

Site Name	Status	Summary Comment
Bray Overview	Clean to European Norms	<i>Bray: The beach and the immediate hinterland in Bray were excellent with regard to litter. The area is exceptionally well served by anti litter notices and litter bins (some permanent, but many temporary ones) - this, combined with cleaning regime, is certainly having the desired effect. It was really a credit to the users of the facilities and those responsible for the maintenance. Dog Fouling notices were quite graphic, there was a complete lack of dog fouling throughout an extensive survey area. Along the beach itself, there was signage '3 for the Sea, please pick up 3 pieces of plastic each time you visit the beach' - there was no visible plastic to be seen on the beach.</i>
Brittas Bay Overview	Clean to European Norms	<i>Brittas Bay: The beach was excellent with regard to litter and the overall impression of the beach and associated car parks was of a very well respected and managed environment. The Recycle Bins in South Car Park were very fresh in appearance and there was no litter in the vicinity of same. A fairly novel feature was the voice recording 'anti-litter' message along the pedestrian pathway from both car parks. Anti litter notices at both car parks were so worn away that the text was illegible. One way of dealing with the accumulation of cigarette butts at the base of the picnic tables at South Car Parks is to install cigarette butt units at each picnic table - this has been done to great effect in other places. Erosion control signage was clear and legible.</i>
Clogherhead Overview	Clean to European Norms	<i>Clogherhead: There was a virtual absence of litter at Clogherhead beach, with a strong emphasis on litter management e.g. plenty of litter awareness notices, including 'leave nothing but footprints' and 'please keep our beach clean and bring your rubbish home'. Opportunities to separate waste, directly beside regular litter bins, were placed at entrance to beach. The car park area was clean and well managed, as was the area surrounding the businesses in the immediate vicinity. This lovely beach environment has been very well respected by the users of same, as evidenced by virtual absence of litter and use of bins, even at the end of day.</i>
Curraclloe Overview	Clean to European Norms	<i>Curraclloe: Despite plenty of activity, the beach, car park and associated grass area were remarkably clean. The location of bins (a row of aesthetically pleasing and sturdy bins) is well thought out as the bins are placed at the beginning of the boardwalk leading to the beach - thus people will know where they are located on leaving the beach. Signage at bin area says 'If you really love this beach, please use the bins properly'. Recycle Facility was freshly presented, with no litter directly associated with it. Dog fouling facility was in excellent order with 'Mitt Mutt', poop bin and very clear signage freshly presented. The overall impression at Curraclloe was of a very well maintained beach, car park and associated facilities.</i>

<p><i>Dun Laoghaire Overview</i></p>	<p>Clean to European Norms</p>	<p><i>Dun Laoghaire: An excellent site with regard to litter and overall presentation and maintenance. The East Pier and former Ferry Terminal and associated parking in the immediate area and eating area across the road from parking were surveyed for the purposes of this survey. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the former terminal building and immediate environs as all aspects associated with same were excellent with regard to litter. East Pier was spotless throughout, any minor food related litter items were in parking area. As well as regular street bins, temporary bins (very large) had been installed at the eating area, close to the small playground. This area was particularly freshly presented and maintained with abundant scented lavender.</i></p>
<p><i>Kilmore Quay Overview</i></p>	<p>Clean to European Norms</p>	<p><i>Kilmore Quay: The overall impression at Kilmore Quay was a very positive one with regard to litter. It was a freshly presented environment, with all aspects in good order. There were minimal food and marine related items throughout. While there were dog fouling bags available, there were no bins in the area for disposal of same or litter. The only bins were at the cafes / restaurants but none on the footpaths or public areas. The water looked beautiful and appeared to be clear of litter, likewise the rocks around the pier and harbour. While there was a 2 Minute Beach Clean Board, it was disappointing to see no litter picker or bags associated with same.</i></p>
<p><i>Lahinch Overview:</i></p>	<p>Clean to European Norms</p>	<p><i>Lahinch: Fresh and welcoming signage welcomes visitors to the seaside resort of Lahinch. The promenade was excellent with regard to litter and there was a virtual absence along the beach area - this is particularly good considering the high number of users availing of the facilities. There was a mix of older style bins, along with newer 'solar belly' bins and a recycle facility - the latter was well maintained. Any minimal amounts of visible litter were food related and short-lie. It is great to see the big efforts being made by the council having such a positive impact.</i></p>
<p><i>Mountshannon Overview</i></p>	<p>Clean to European Norms</p>	<p><i>Mountshannon: A very freshly presented and well maintained environment, with a virtual absence of litter throughout. An area cordoned off by fencing didn't impact in any negative way on the litter situation. Visitor information notices and dog fouling / anti litter notices were in good order, fresh, clear and legible. Picnic table was a nice feature and seating / benches looked well. Recycle facility was in very good order. There was a very large sign beside the recycle bins 'Please do not Leave any Items on the Ground - This Site is Currently being monitored by Clare County Council' - perhaps this signage is having the desired effect?</i></p>

<p><i>Old Head Overview</i></p>	<p>Clean to European Norms</p>	<p><i>Old Head: The overall impression with regard to litter at Old Head was a good one, with a virtual absence of litter throughout. There was a 'Leave nothing behind, only your footprints in the sand' sign to discourage littering on the beach and a '2 Minute Beach Clean' Board to encourage a quick clean-up. The notice boards / signage were in good order and the immediate hinterland was well presented and maintained. There was very little litter throughout the area surveyed, with marine rope tangled in the lying seaweed the most obvious.</i></p>
<p><i>Portmagee Overview</i></p>	<p>Clean to European Norms</p>	<p><i>Portmagee: The overall impression with regard to litter at Portmagee was an excellent one, despite a number of tourists and a lack of bins in the area surveyed. Any minimal pieces of litter were water based. Recycle Facility bins were very fresh and signage was clear and legible. Detailed dog fouling signage (Dog Fouling is a threat to the health of our children, degrades our country, can transmit disease and is required by law) appears to be having the desired effect as there was no dog fouling or bagged dog fouling present. Signage, seating and visitor information notices were in good order and the way in which a derelict cottage has been painted and adorned with colourful flowering shows what can be done with what could otherwise be an eyesore. Clearly there is great pride in the village by the local residents as there were community clean ups taking place at times of inspection. The tidiness of the village is a credit to the people of Portmagee.</i></p>
<p><i>Portmarnock Overview</i></p>	<p>Clean to European Norms</p>	<p><i>Portmarnock: The overall impression with regard to litter was a very good one. Large areas were completely free of litter. The approach from the public car park via the large expanse of grass (All Ireland Pollinator Plan) was a lovely one and beautifully managed. Both public car parks had recycle facilities which were freshly presented. The expansive area is exceptionally well served by litter bins and opportunities to separate waste on the beach itself. Cigarette butts had accumulated within the car parks. There was minimal marine related litter on the beach and trace elements of some food related items. Dog fouling notices and facilities for the disposal of same were in good order and there was good signage relating to the dunes.</i></p>
<p><i>Strandhill Overview</i></p>	<p>Clean to European Norms</p>	<p><i>Strandhill: The overall impression of Strandhill beach, promenade and car parking was excellent with regard to litter. Signage and visitor information notices presented well. There were just minor amounts of items relating to ice-cream and some cigarette butts. This was mostly between the rocks near the wall, opposite the eateries. The area was well served by litter bins and these appear to be well maintained. Mutt Mitt and bin were in good order but the associated signage was partially worn away. Another dog fouling sign says ' Love your Dog, Respect your City' -it would seem that the dog fouling initiative is having the desired effect as there was an absence of dog fouling / bagged dog fouling in the area surveyed.</i></p>

<p><i>Tramore Overview</i></p>	<p>Clean to European Norms</p>	<p><i>Tramore: It was striking how incredibly clean the beach area and immediate hinterland of Tramore Strand were, with the beach particularly pristine. Regular bins were supplemented by additional ones for the summer season and litter awareness / dog fouling notices were in excellent condition and fresh in appearance. As well as recycling options, there was a novel feature for the collection of plastic bottles for recycling. Despite plenty of activity, there was a virtual absence of litter in the area surveyed. It is clear that great care is taken to not only keep the area clean and clear, but also an inviting and pleasant environment.</i></p>
<p><i>Grand Canal Dock Overview</i></p>	<p>Moderately littered</p>	<p><i>Grand Canal Dock: There was a marked improvement in the amount of litter in the water at Grand Canal Dock compared to a couple of years ago. This could probably be attributed to a a virtual absence of land based litter, perhaps due to enhanced cleaning regime. The overall impression around the theatre and surrounding area was of an exceptionally freshly presented and maintained environment with attractive planted areas. The regular street bins were supplemented by large industrial scale bins towards the lock area - this area is not quite as well presented and mostly where the litter lay. Graffiti was very pronounced along this stretch.</i></p>
<p><i>Killiney Overview:</i></p>	<p>Moderately littered</p>	<p><i>Killiney: Killiney Beach and the immediate hinterland presented very well and and was very with regard to litter - a virtual absence throughout. There was an attractively paved area (close to the lifeguard hut) with picnic tables - this area looked very well. The '2 Minute Beach Clean Board' was in good order. Works were taking place around the ramp area but this didn't negatively impact on the litter situation in any way. As well as regular bins there were several ad hoc opportunities for the disposal of litter on the beach, namely plastic sacks. The reason that Killiney didn't get the top litter grade overall was due to the litter in the car park - as well as scattered food related litter, there were items at the base of the low lying shrubbery which hadn't been cleared in quite some time. The Recycle Facility in the car park presented poorly - the units were covered in graffiti and clothing was hanging out of the clothing recycle unit.</i></p>

<p><i>Ballybunion Overview:</i></p>	<p>Moderately littered</p>	<p><i>Ballybunion: The overall first impression created at Ballybunion Beach and the immediate hinterland was a positive one with regard to litter. There were a couple of litter awareness notices, one in particular, which says 'We all love to travel, so does Litter' - hopefully this message can have a greater impact going forward. There was excellent signage relating to the facilities / amenities and the recycle units were very freshly presented. Closer inspection reveals plenty of small fragmented items from various plastic material and packaging. The main food / drink related items were bottles (both plastic and glass, one of which was broken, a health hazard), sweet wrappers and coffee cups. Within the immediate hinterland, the upper Atlantic coastal footpath, items included cans, masks wipes and dog waste (both bagged and unbagged). While the beach area was well served by litter bins, the installation of bins / butt unit facilities along the walkway may help. Cigarette butts were particularly prevalent throughout the area surveyed. Marine related items included fishing line, rope and polystyrene.</i></p>
<p><i>Dingle Overview</i></p>	<p>Moderately littered</p>	<p><i>Dingle: On first impressions, Dingle harbour and immediate environs appeared quite clean. The area is well presented with paving, seating, railings etc. in good order. However, it was impossible to ignore the scattered food related litter (mostly coffee cups and sweet wrappers) and larger miscellaneous pieces of plastic and other items between the stones in the revetment area. The installation of bins along the promenade / waterfront and litter awareness notices could make a difference - currently there were only bins on the parallel street. There was a definite marine related presence along the pier (pieces of rope and fishing net); Dog fouling notice was clear and legible.</i></p>
<p><i>Doolin Overview</i></p>	<p>Moderately littered</p>	<p><i>Doolin was a freshly presented environment which has seen big improvements in litter levels compared to a few years ago. This time around it was a moderately littered site, mostly short-lie, mainly found around the pier car park and on the road to the overflow car park. Car park surface, signage, visitor information notices and dog fouling facility were well presented. Cigarette butts were particularly prevalent, with lower levels of a variety of food-related items (most notably fast food wrappers and sachets of ketchup / vinegar) . Red and white plastic industrial tape was tied around a pole and flapping about, creating a poor impression. The most obvious blot on the landscape was the building related materials (a geo fabric) in the car park and long-lie pieces trapped in the rocks - levels of which were quite significant.</i></p>

<p><i>Dungarvan Overview</i></p>	<p>Moderately littered</p>	<p><i>Dungarvan: The overall impression at Dungarvan harbour and immediate hinterland was of a moderately littered site with no large accumulations. There were some notable items within the water area e.g. traffic cones and alcohol related litter e.g. beer bottles and pint glasses. The problem with glass bottles and glass is that they can break and become a health hazard, as did happen at this site. Cigarette butts were also present around seating areas. The recent installation of solar powered bins with cigarette butt disposal facility is a welcome addition to the area. Walton Park was very freshly presented with attractive planning, good overall maintenance and minimal litter. The litter awareness notices were in good order.</i></p>
<p><i>Killybegs Overview:</i></p>	<p>Moderately littered</p>	<p><i>Killybegs: While the harbour / pier areas were generally quite clean, it was the litter along the promenade area which brought down the litter grade. The main items were fast-food related, (particularly from take-aways) cigarette butts and dog fouling (both bagged and unbagged). While the dog fouling signage was in good order and related to the fact it is prohibited, the signage was not as hard hitting as other signage in some parts of the country (e.g. Dog Fouling is a threat to the health of our children, degrades our country, can transmit disease) Some litter items had also been discarded over the promenade wall. It would seem that a couple of street bins along the southern end of the promenade had been removed (recessed areas), perhaps these could be reinstated, combined with enhanced sweeping and installation of more dog fouling and butt disposal facilities.</i></p>
<p><i>Kinsale Overview</i></p>	<p>Moderately littered</p>	<p><i>Kinsale: The main land area was generally very clean with regard to litter and bright flower boxes added a splash of colour. Cigarette butts were particularly obvious, with several separate accumulations, (especially close to gutters and drains leading to the sea). There was no shortage of bins in the area surveyed; Apart from land based cigarette butts, much of the food related litter was over the wall of the car park, into the sea; there was no majorly obvious food items, with a wide variety of food related items present; the main non food related items included face masks (both disposable and others) and dog fouling; Alcohol related litter (take away plastic glasses and glass bottles); a very old Christmas tree was at the base of the water bed.</i></p>

<p><i>Skerries Overview:</i></p>	<p>Moderately littered</p>	<p><i>Skerries: The overall impression at Skerries beach was of a somewhat littered environment with fast-food litter, sweet wrappers and cigarette butts the most obvious types. The latter were particularly pronounced close to the benches. Lower levels of a wide variety of other food related litter were also present. 'PEL' solar street bin, with pedal and cigarette butt unit within, was very fresh in appearance. The area surveyed was very well served by slightly older style of bin, with butt unit at the top. Litter was an even mix of short-lie and long-lie. Minor marine related items (e.g. rope / fishing line) were found on the beach. Opportunities are provided for the separation of waste and the artistic painting of the electricity type box is an attractive feature. One way to address the cigarette butt issue is to erect signage relating to the disposal of same or even installing small ash trays at the benches.</i></p>
<p><i>Bundoran Overview:</i></p>	<p>Littered</p>	<p><i>Bundoran: While the beach itself had scattered litter, it was the heavier presence along the promenade and car park areas which really brought down the litter grade. Cigarette butts, fast-food wrappers and sweet papers were the most obvious types, with lower levels of a wide variety of food related items and other miscellaneous items e.g. small items of clothing, wipes etc.. Small amounts of broken up plastic, polystyrene and rope were found around the beach area. The promenade was well served by litter bins, including two dog fouling bins, all of which were well maintained. The provision of cigarette disposal stations could certainly help the cigarette butt issue and the broken dog fouling bag dispenser should either be replaced or removed. More litter awareness notices and an enhanced street sweeping regime along the promenade / car park area could also make a big difference.</i></p>
<p><i>Castletownbere Overview</i></p>	<p>Littered</p>	<p><i>Castletownbere: There was a very definite litter presence at Castletownbere, particularly food related items. While much of the food related litter was 'short-lie' there was also some 'long-lie' items strewn about. The overall impression was of an area which appeared to lack a thorough cleaning. Cigarette butts had accumulated in the car park, particularly close to the drain in the corner, with many butts within the drain. There was marine related litter above the high tide line and in the area where the ferry departs for Bere Island. There didn't appear to be any 'litter awareness' or 'dog fouling' notices in the area - the only notice was on the street bin indicating that it was not for household rubbish. Clearly there is need for the latter notice as there was a bag of household rubbish beside a bin. There is plenty of room for improvement with the installation of litter / dog fouling notices.</i></p>

<p><i>Dog's Bay Overview:</i></p>	<p>Littered</p>	<p><i>Dog's Bay: Much of the litter along the beach at Dog's Bay was marine related (rope, twine and polystyrene) and to do with the dunes - the toe of the dunes contained the remains of a fence and a substantial wire entanglement was embedded in the sand - this is a health hazard. As well as marine / dune related items there was a variety of food related litter, including a used disposable BBQ, the remnants of a campfire and industrial pieces of plastic. The items on the beach were an even mix of short and long lie litter. Due to coastal erosion, nearly all the fencing protecting the sand dunes had been washed away - the dunes themselves were suffering from significant erosion. One anti-litter notice (Bin it or Take it Home, Please do not Litter, Thank You) was a flimsy page, taped onto a fence - this sign could, itself, end up becoming litter.</i></p>
<p><i>Keel Overview:</i></p>	<p>Littered</p>	<p><i>Keel: By virtue of stony nature of some of this beach, on first impressions the area seemed not too bad with regard to litter; However, closer inspection revealed significant marine related items (rope, nets and fishing line on the beach) and alcohol related litter (trapped in the marram grass); As well as a wide variety of food related items, there were also some car tyres, battery and dead seagull; the style of litter bins were such that they were not covered (litter could easily blow out with gust of wind or be picked at by birds); there didn't appear to be any bins at the overflowing parking area to the left of the access road; the area surrounding the various businesses were clean and tidy.</i></p>
<p><i>Loughrea Overview</i></p>	<p>Littered</p>	<p><i>Loughrea: This was a mixed site in terms of litter. On first impressions it seemed quite good, but further inspection revealed a very definite litter presence. While this area is well served by dog fouling notices, it would seem that there more litter awareness notices and bins are required - especially in the area between the harbour car park and up to the viewing spot. There were the remnants of a campfire on the shoreline. There were heavy levels of a wide variety of food related litter and cigarette butts in the car park. Many of the bins don't have cigarette butt disposal facilities - the installation of some could make a big difference as there were heavy accumulations throughout the car park. Two of the bins had small bags of rubbish left beside them - while the bin signage related to not disposing of household rubbish, perhaps a 'Please bring your rubbish home with you if this bin is full' signage would help?</i></p>

<p><i>Bantry Overview:</i></p>	<p>Littered</p>	<p><i>Bantry: There was very much a litter presence at the seating areas, despite numerous bins in the vicinity. Much of this litter was food related and associated with the market taking place. Accumulations of litter were thrown over the bridge by some steps. The stored fishing gear appeared disused, with plants growing all over it - this has attracted other people to throw their litter here. If not carefully monitored, this is likely to further attract litter and even dumping. Good to see cigarette butt unit attached to the black bench - this is exactly what is needed to prevent accumulations of same beneath the seating. A shopping trolley had been left by the recycle facility - the bins and signage at this facility were freshly presented. Mutt Mitt seemed in good order. There didn't appear to be any litter awareness notices - perhaps the installation of same could help tackle the casually discarded litter.</i></p>
<p><i>Annesley Bridge Overview</i></p>	<p>Littered</p>	<p><i>Annesley Bridge: There was a myriad of long-lie large items at the base of the river bed (at least a dozen tyres, shopping trolley, scooter, bricks). Food related litter was very noticeable along the park side of the riverwalk - there were no litter bins along this stretch - perhaps the installation of litter bins and litter awareness notices could help? There was significant alcohol related litter (bottles, cans and cardboard boxes) on the riverside of the bridge. Persistent small items of litter were trapped in the weeds along East Wall Road - these were mostly long-lie and are not being cleared with regular street cleaning. Graffiti was present on many different surfaces.</i></p>
<p><i>Salthill Overview</i></p>	<p>Littered</p>	<p><i>Salthill: The first impression at Salthill was a poor one with overflowing litter bins and substantial fast-food / food related litter on top of and at the base of street bins. A bag of rubbish had been left at the base of another bin. Along the beach the main items were coffee cups, fast-food litter and sweet wrappers, along with several clothing items. Other discarded items included plastic toys and food utensils. There were accumulations of cigarette butts in the car parking areas - perhaps the installation of more facilities for the disposal of same could help. A '2 Minute Beach Clean Board' was prominently displayed with litter pickers and bags in place. The large litter bins are mostly covered and in good order with plenty of dog fouling notices throughout. There was minimal dog fouling to be seen in the area surveyed.</i></p>

<p><i>Blackrock Castle Overview</i></p>	<p>Heavily littered</p>	<p><i>Blackrock Castle: Overall Landward area is well managed. The walkway / greenway (in the eastern side of the castle) is well used and was in good order. Foreshore, to the west of the castle and towards and around Blackrock Village / Harbour was heavily littered with marine litter and cans from outdoor drinking. The harbour area is very heavily littered with marine litter, plastic bottles, coffee cups, plastic packaging. There was an even mix of long and short lie litter and amongst the marine and food related litter there was a discarded wheelbarrow.</i></p>
<p><i>White Bay Overview</i></p>	<p>Heavily littered</p>	<p><i>White Bay: At first glance, White Bay looks clean with limited amounts of fresh litter. However, in the cobbles, stones and sand along the top of the beach it is stuffed with small pieces of broken up long lie litter and sewage related litter mainly cotton buds, bottle tops etc. It looks like this beach is where a lot of the marine litter transported into Cork Harbour from upstream ends up and is winnowed and broken up and then entombed into the beach sediments.</i></p>