

National Indicator 195 (NI195) survey overview

Currently the levels of environmental cleanliness in Watford are measured using former NI 195 (previously BVPI 199) survey methodology. Although this is no longer a national indicator, the cleanliness of streets and parks across Watford have historically been measured using this method, and continue to be, for a consistent approach.

The NI195 survey is designed to provide a 'representative' picture of cleanliness within an authority.

The NI 195 survey measures the percentage of relevant land and highways that is assessed as having deposits of litter, detritus, graffiti and fly posting that fall below an acceptable level, using the following formula:

$$\left(\frac{T + \left(\frac{Tb}{2} \right)}{Ts} \right) * 100$$

- T = number of sites graded C, C-, or D for each individual element (litter, detritus, graffiti and fly posting)
- Tb = number of sites graded at B- for each individual element (litter, detritus, graffiti and fly posting) (this grade counts as half);
- Ts = total number of sites surveyed for the relevant element (litter, detritus, graffiti and fly posting)

The lower the score the better the standard of cleanliness.

The following overall targets are set out in the contract with Veolia, to make sure that high standards of cleansing are maintained:

Element	Score (%)
Litter	4.46
Detritus	5.48
Graffiti	3.71
Fly posting	0.36

Each survey is based on a 50m transect (or 50m² in a green space). In Watford, 250 surveys are carried out each quarter, equating to 1000 surveys annually. Most of these are carried out by an independent inspector appointed by Veolia, but 10% are carried out jointly with the inspector, Veolia and the council.

Each ward is surveyed bi-annually, in alternate quarters, with locations selected across a variety of land uses:

- Main retail and commercial areas
- Other retail and commercial areas
- High obstruction housing areas (many vehicles parked on the road)
- Medium obstruction housing areas (some vehicles parked on the road)

- Low obstruction housing areas (few vehicles parked on the road)
- Industry, warehousing, retail sheds and science Parks
- Main roads
- Other highways e.g. alleyways, underpasses
- Recreation areas e.g. parks

The following definitions are used to grade the cleanliness:

Grade	Element	Description of level of cleanliness
A	Litter	No litter
	Detritus	No detritus
	Graffiti	No graffiti
	Flyposting	No fly posting
<i>B+</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>Intermediate grade</i>
B	Litter	Predominantly free of litter except for some small items
	Detritus	Predominantly free of detritus except for some light scattering
	Graffiti	Some graffiti is present, but it is minor in extent, and many people passing through the local environment would not notice it
	Flyposting	Some fly posting is present, but it is minor in nature and it is likely that many people would not notice its presence. This can include tie-bands or other forms of fastening which remain after a notice has been removed.
<i>B-</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>Intermediate grade</i>
C	Litter	Widespread distribution of litter and refuse, with minor accumulations
	Detritus	Widespread distribution of detritus, with minor accumulations
	Graffiti	Graffiti is present to the extent that it would be clearly visible to people passing through the local environment, and visible at a distance from at least one end of the 50m transect.
	Flyposting	Fly posting is present in the local environment to the extent that it is likely to be clearly visible to people using the area, and visible at a distance from at least one end of a 50m transect.
<i>C-</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>Intermediate grade</i>
D	Litter	Heavily littered, with significant accumulations
	Detritus	Extensively covered with detritus with significant accumulations
	Graffiti	Graffiti is extensive over a large part of the 50m transect and is likely to be clearly visible and obtrusive to people passing through the local environment, and visible from any point on the transect.
	Flyposting	Fly posting is extensive throughout much of the local environment and is clearly visible and obtrusive to people passing through the street scene, and visible from any point on a 50m transect.