

Volunteer Lengthsman Scheme (VLS)

What does a VLS do?

To put it simply – you adopt a lane!

Historically lengthsman were employed to work on highways to do simple 'stitch in time' maintenance work; cut back an overhanging branch here, clear a ditch there, simple work.



Some highway authorities and/or individual parishes are again employing lengthsman, but their focus is the surfaced highway network, so we are bringing the idea to unsurfaced vehicular RoWs.

Our volunteer lengthsman take on a single lane (or group of lanes should they wish) and drive those routes at least three or four times a year to check on the general condition. Twice a year they should walk the lane and do a litter pick (if that is a requirement in the area). If you are able to visit more regularly that's great!

If during their travels the volunteer lengthsman come across minor problems, such as a ditch that has become blocked or a branch that has fallen from a tree, they can be simply dealt with there and then.

Don't forget to record your work on Trailwise2! You can also send some photos and a few words to include in our bulletin and/or social media if you wish.

More serious problems will need to be reported to the relevant Area Rep and/or the Rights of Way Department at the Highway Authority for the area in question. It is important that lengthsman do not attempt to carry out any significant work, particularly to the surface of the road, the authority would need to grant permission first.

Any VLS feedback should be given to the local rep and be recorded against lanes on Trailwise2.

Who can become a volunteer lengthsman?

If you are an association member and are willing to volunteer as a VLS then we'd love to hear from you!

First you need to choose the lane(s) you wish to monitor from Trailwise2, then go to

<https://membermojo.co.uk/glass-uk/yourmembership/details>

Green Lane Association

www.glass-uk.org

Once logged in, go to your account and click 'edit'.

Under your personal information you should see this check box.

The screenshot shows a user profile form with the following fields and labels:

- * Last name (Required field.)
- * Email (Required field.)
- * Address (Required field.)
- Address1
- * Town (Required field.)
- County (dropdown menu)
- * Postcode (Required field.)
- Country (dropdown menu, currently set to UK)
- Landline number
- Mobile number
- VLS (New members please ignore this option)

A red circle highlights the 'VLS' checkbox, and a red arrow points from the text 'Check this box' to it.

Simply tick the box and fill in the TWUID and the date you wish to start from. If multiple routes please use the following format: **SH1234-05 : SH5678-01**

The screenshot shows the VLS registration form section with the following fields and labels:

- VLS (Volunteer Lengthsman Scheme - Please click [here](#) for more information)
- * TWUID (text input field)
- Add TWUID (s) from Trailwise2 here. If multiple routes please use the following format: SH1234-01 : SH5678-02
- * Date (calendar icon, text input field)
- The date of becoming a VLS

Once you're all signed up you will receive one of our VLS Scheme stickers with our thanks!

It is hoped that the GLASS Volunteer Lengthsman Scheme can be another way that we can demonstrate our commitment to sensible and sustainable use of unsurfaced vehicular routes.

Who do VLSs report to?

Our Admin Team coordinate the scheme centrally. If you have any questions please feel free to ask. They can be contacted at vls@glass-uk.org

The relevant area rep is your local contact in the county the lane is in. They will have local knowledge and should be updated if you have anything to report.

All area rep contact details can be found here: <https://glass-uk.org/contact-us.html>

Main duties of a VLS

1. To visit the lane a minimum of three of four times a year, preferably during different seasons
2. To walk the lane twice a year and litter pick if this is a requirement in the area
3. To report any feedback – general observations, maintenance concerns etc. - back to the VLS Admin Team and relevant area rep
4. To report any significant maintenance issues to the relevant local authority, VLS Team, and area rep
5. To update TW2 with their usage and any observations about the lane
6. Please identify that you are the registered VLS in any comments made on TW2 so we can search for updates from the scheme
7. To action any easily rectifiable issues such as windfall or overhanging branches
8. To promote what they do for the association by posting/sharing positive feedback about their experiences on social media, and/or forwarding feedback and photos to the Media/Communications Officer for use socialmedia@glass-uk.org
9. To adhere to the association code of conduct during visits, and to act in a manner that promotes a positive public image, and that reflects the organisation's objectives
10. To engage politely with other users as applicable during their duties as a VLS
11. Be aware that you are undertaking these duties on a personal voluntary capacity to benefit all users of the green lane