

# Blue Access Scotland

An inclusive and sustainable blue space infrastructure for disabled people in Scotland

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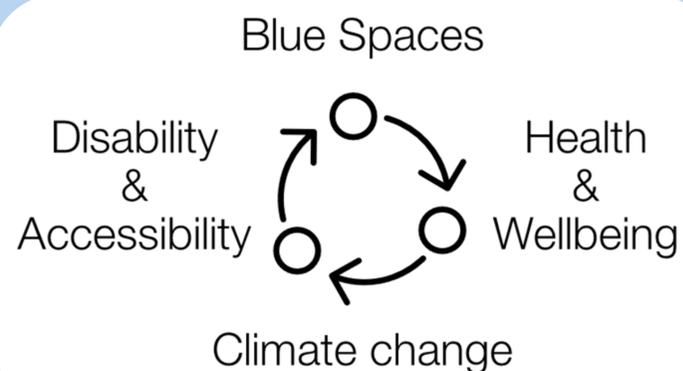
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## Introduction

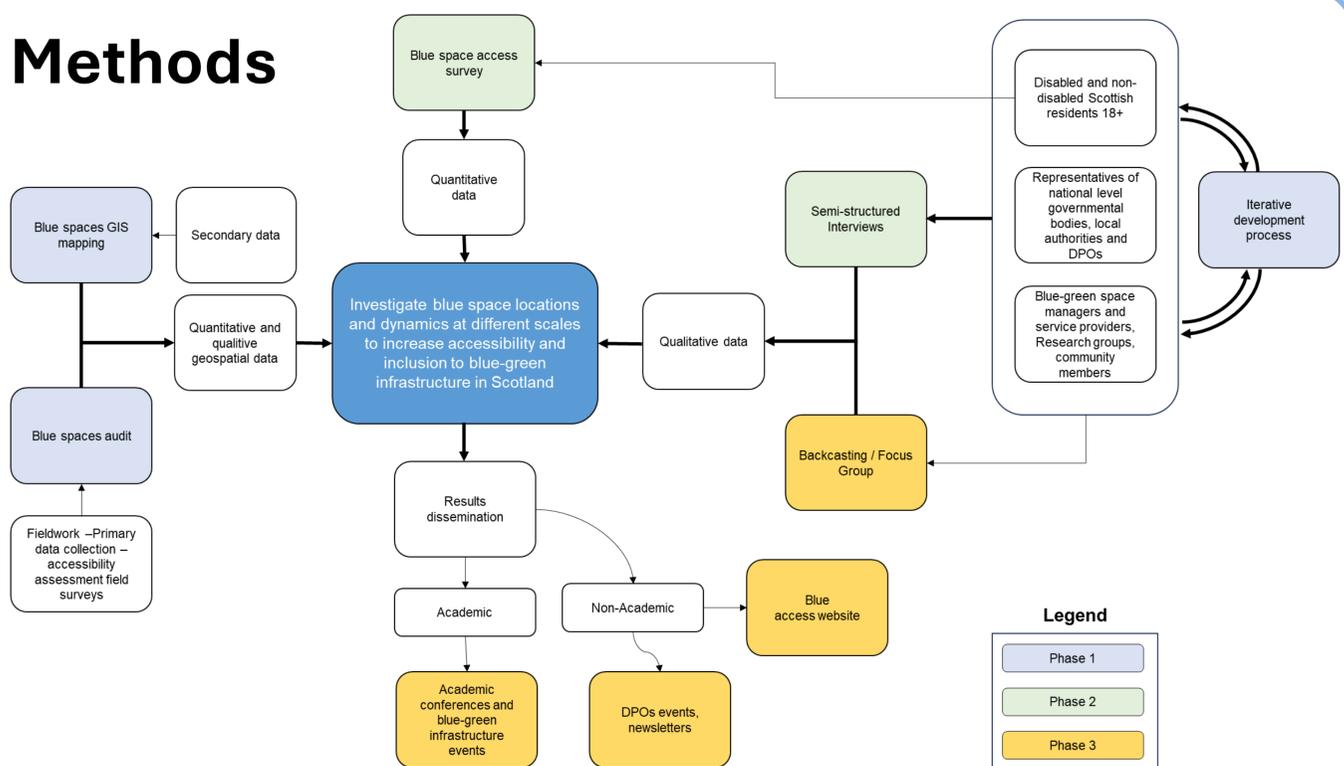
This research aim is to investigate blue space locations and dynamics at different scales to increase accessibility and inclusion to blue-green infrastructure in Scotland

### Objectives:

1. Map and assess the quality and accessibility of different blue-green space locations and typologies.
2. Examine the lived experiences of disabled people in relation to access and use of blue-green spaces in Scotland.
3. Investigate the accounts of local and national authorities, Disabled People Organizations, blue-green space managers and service providers regarding blue-green infrastructure and services in relation to disabled people.
4. Produce –using participatory methods involving disabled people community, institutional and private stakeholders— a collective vision, and strategy for accessible and inclusive blue-green spaces in Scotland.



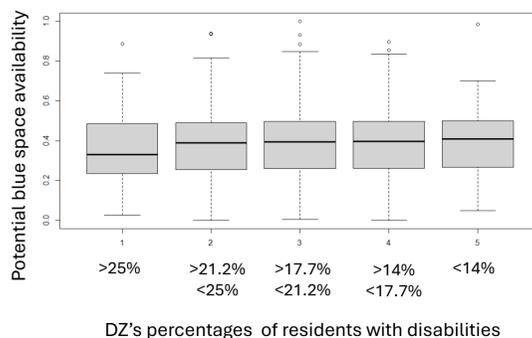
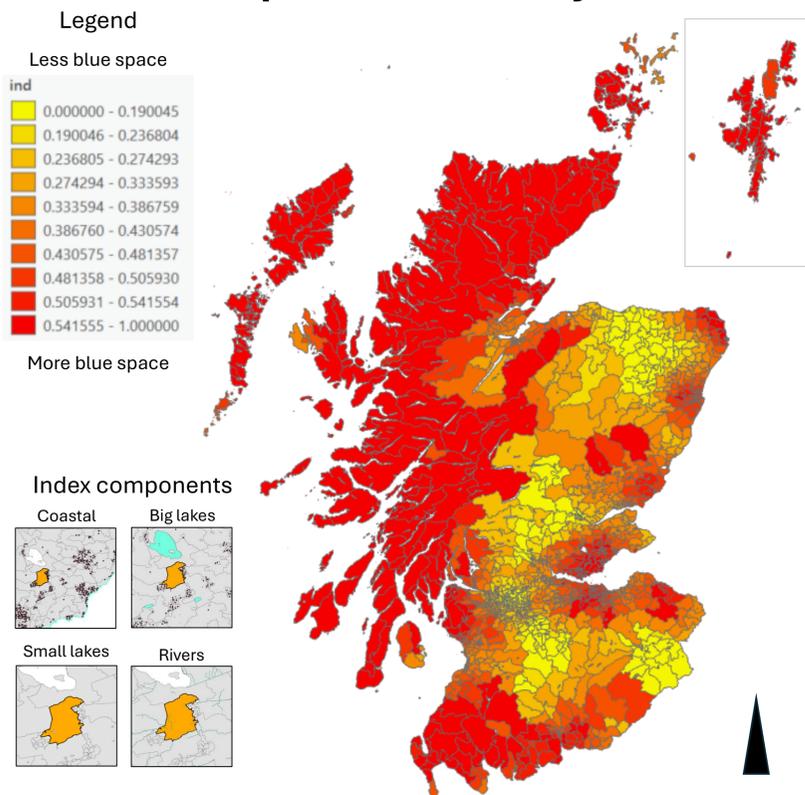
## Methods



## Key findings

- Blue space distribution and accessibility varies at national level. While Scotland is a comparatively rich country in terms of potential blue space access opportunities, due to the abundance of coastal areas, rivers, canals, lochs and other waterbodies, accessibility levels and disabled people access to these spaces varies across locations.
- Findings at national level indicate that areas with higher percentages of disabled residents (>25%) and areas considered comparatively more deprived (SIMD1) are both associated with lower blue space availability potential opportunities.
- Preliminary findings of field surveys conducted in blue space locations indicate that blue spaces in proximity of areas with high numbers of disabled residents, in large majority don't comply with existing accessibility standards (BS EN17210:2021)

## Cumulative index of potential blue space availability



## Next steps

### Key step 3 -Semi-structured interviews (Obj.2-3)

Prepare and conduct conducted semi-structured interviews with disabled people, representatives of national governmental bodies and local authorities, and blue space managers and service providers [Until May 2025]

### Key step 4 -Iterative development process (Obj.2-3)

Continue the iterative development process with the different actors involved with blue space inclusion and accessibility for disabled people in Scotland

### Key step 5- Backcasting (Obj.4) :

Envisaging alternative futures for blue space accessibility and inclusion.

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