

Blue Access Scotland

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

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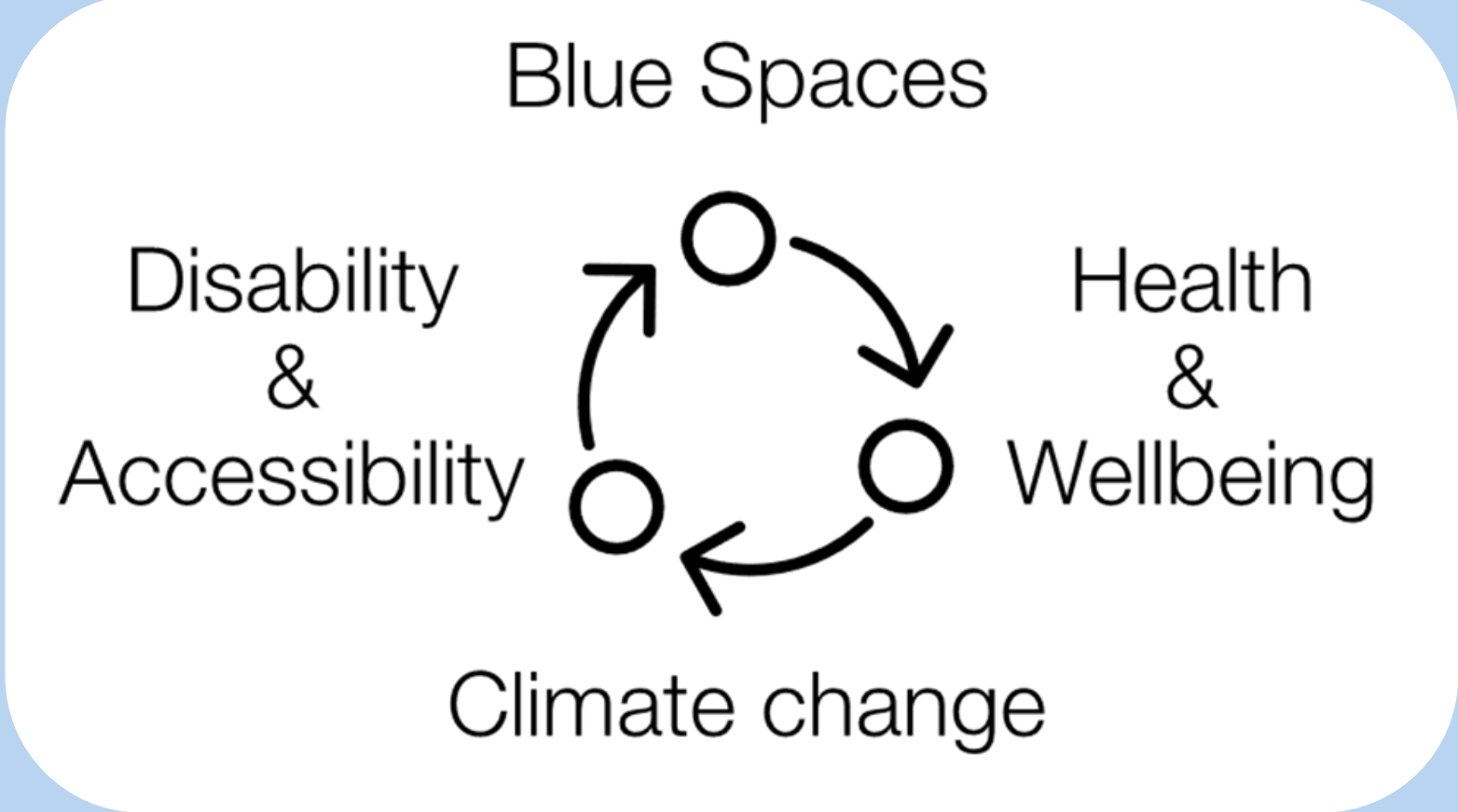
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Introduction

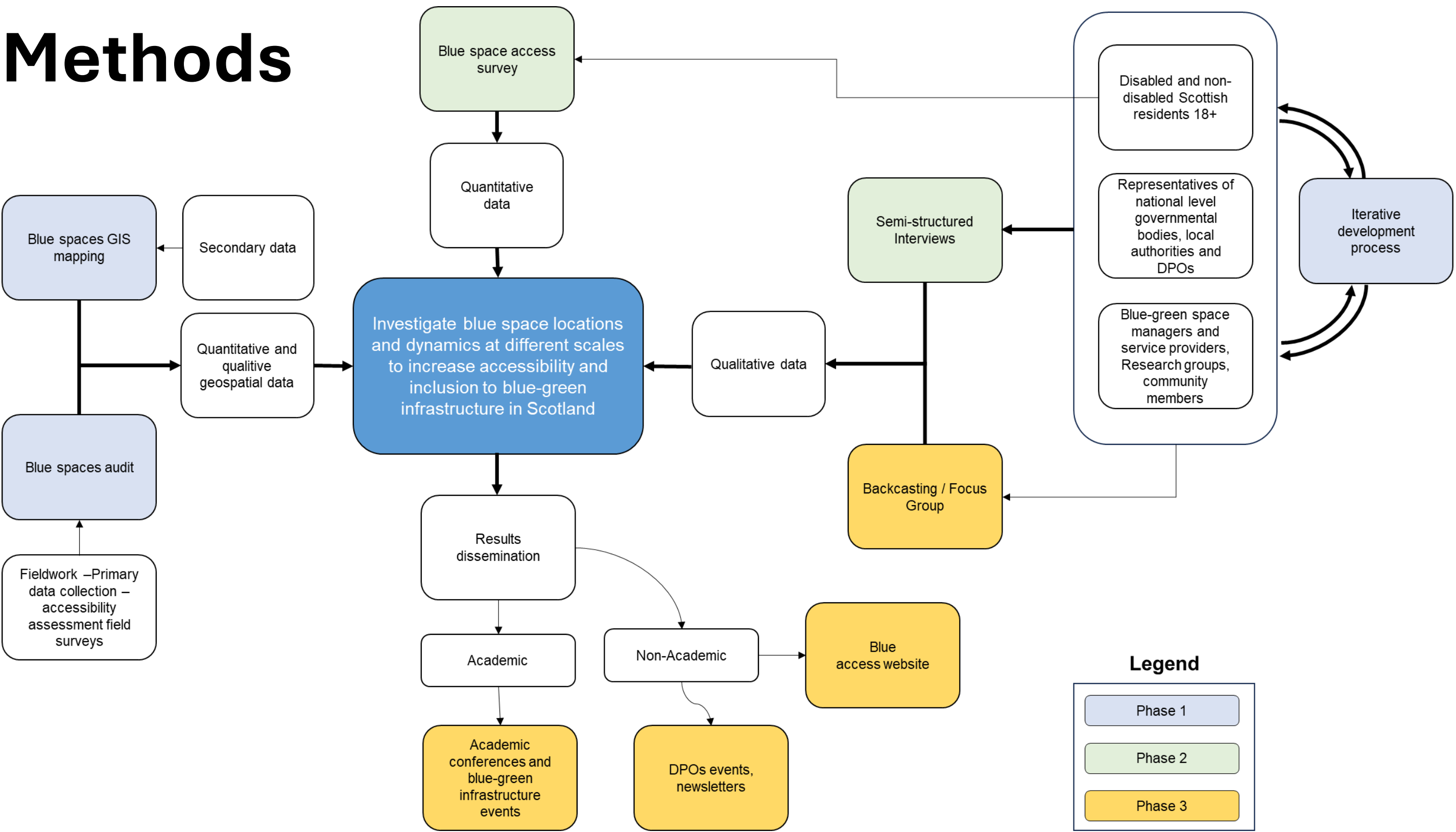
This research aim is to investigate blue space locations and dynamics at different scales to increase accessibility and inclusion to blue-green infrastructure in Scotland

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.

Preliminary findings in the Tay Cities region study area suggest that people in the most deprived communities live in environments with comparatively less coastal area. Most disabled people and people over 65 in the study area also live within areas with limited availability of high-quality blue spaces.

Next steps

Key step 1- Blue space mapping and accessibility audits (Obj.1)

Complete the blue space mapping at national level and the accessibility audits case studies in the Tay cities region study area [Until Aug 2024]

Key step 2 - Quantitative survey (Obj.2)

Disseminate and analyse the results of a quantitative survey aiming at collecting data related to blue spaces preferences and use patterns, perceived benefits, facilitators and barriers to blue access participation [Until Dec 2024]

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 Apr 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.

Access to Blue Spaces in Scotland - Survey

We want to hear about your experience visiting lochs, rivers, beaches and other waterbodies in Scotland. If you don't go to any blue space, we want to hear that too.

Please support us making blue spaces more inclusive and accessible by completing this 15-minute-long survey.

Access available through the QR Code. The survey is open to all Scottish residents 18+. Thank you!



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