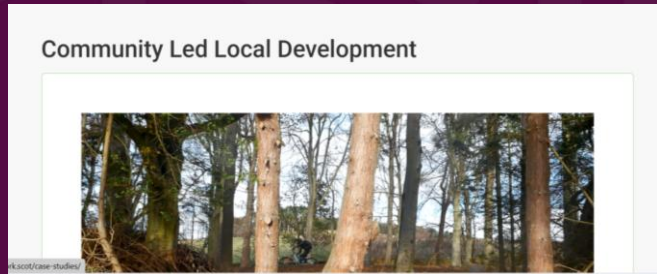


Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review



Community Led
Local Development

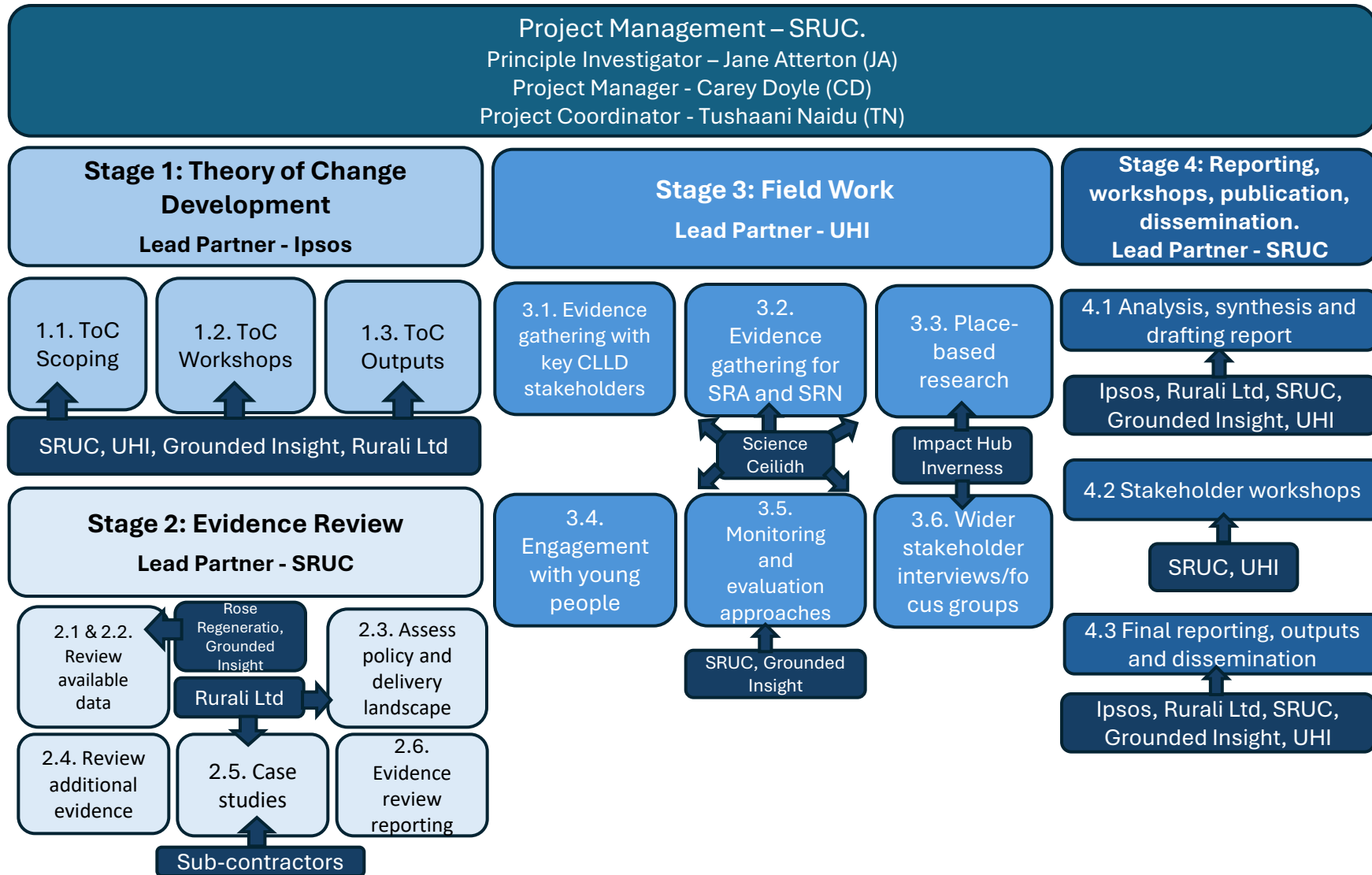
Scottish Rural
Action

Scottish Rural
Network



Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review

- Independent review reporting to Scottish Government, led by SRUC
- Project aims:
 - To evaluate the delivery of CLLD, SRA, SRN
 - To examine their strategic fit in relation to wider public and third sector interventions, identify their unique role and impact, any gaps or areas of duplication
 - To consider and propose options for their future role, focus and delivery, including in relation to the Rural Support Plan and wider rural policy, and in the context of the forthcoming Rural Delivery Plan
 - To consult and engage with a range of stakeholders, and
 - To produce practical recommendations.
- An implementation and process evaluation, which looks at **what** is happening, as well as **how** and **why**



Research Process

January
2025

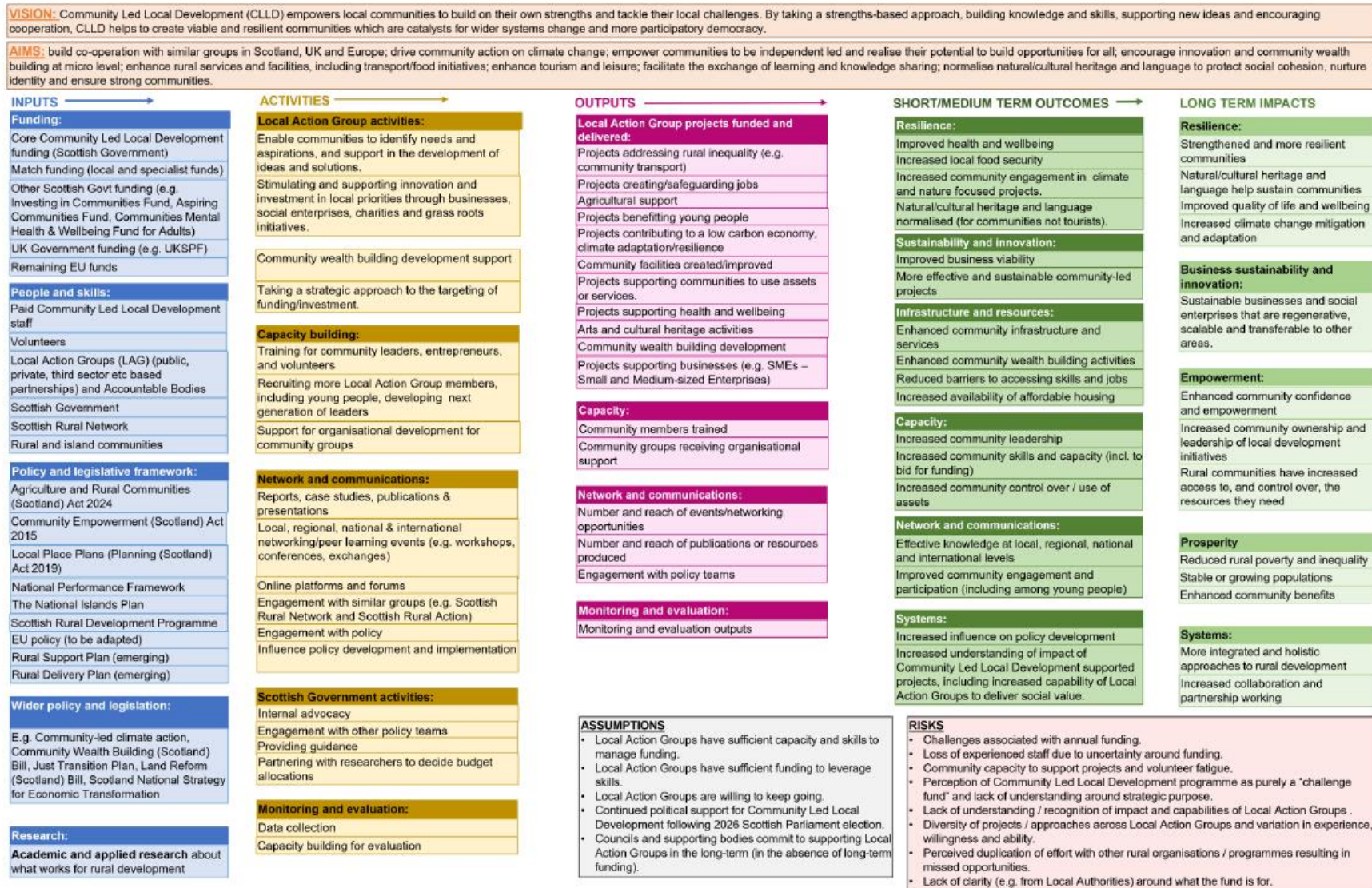
- Stage 1: Theory of Change
- Stage 2: Evidence Review
- Stage 3: Fieldwork
- Stage 4: Reporting ← We are here

January
2026

Many opportunities for everyone to get involved at each stage and particularly in Stage 3

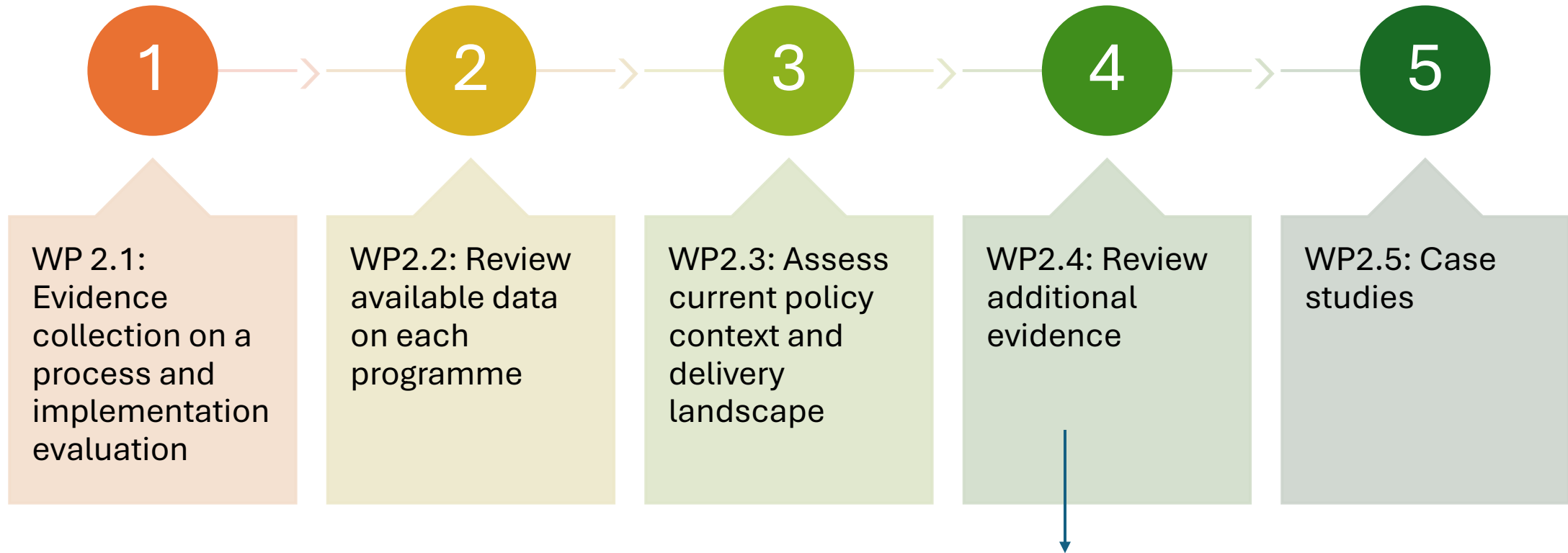
Stage 1: Four Theories of Change

Figure 1.1 Community Led Local Development (CLLD) theory of change



Community Led Local Development - Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review: stage 1 - theories of change - gov.scot

Stage 2: Evidence Review



Evaluating rural development interventions in Scotland since 1945

International case studies (WP2.5)



Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review - Stage 2. Ireland case study



Agriculture, Environment and Marine



Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review - Stage 2. England case study



Agriculture, Environment and Marine



Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review - Stage 2. Canada case study



Agriculture, Environment and Marine



Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review - Stage 2. Finland case study



Agriculture, Environment and Marine



Stage 3: Fieldwork

Get involved in the Scottish Rural Communities Policy review

A research team led by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) is carrying out a review of rural community initiatives for the Scottish Government during 2025.

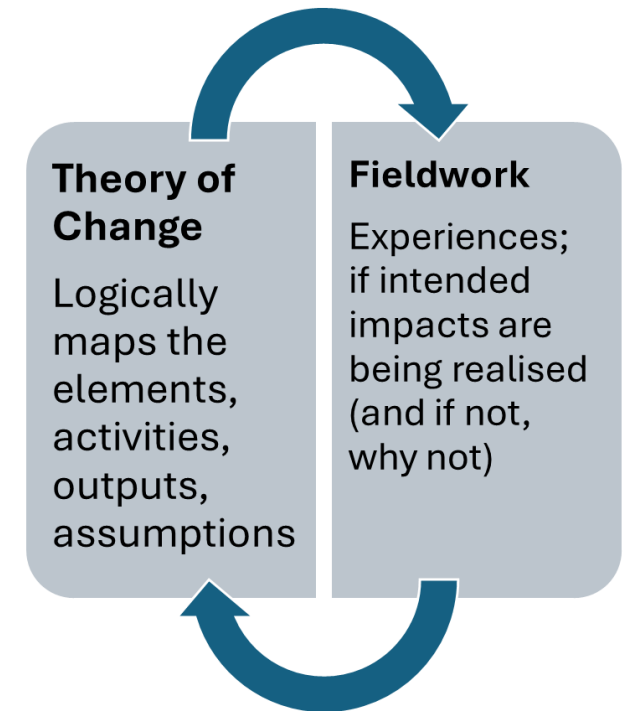
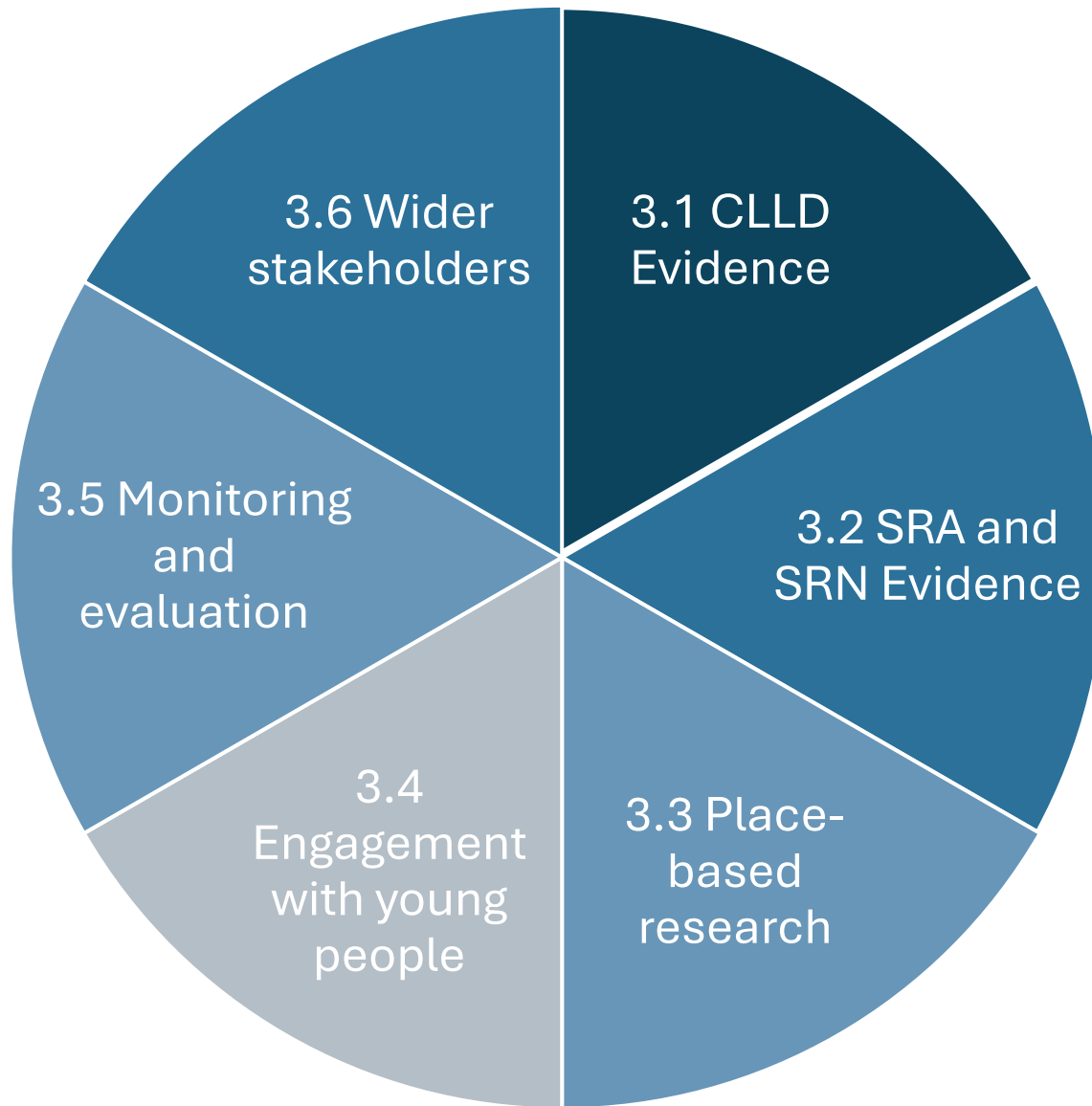
Here are the 3 main ways you can get involved this summer:

- 1** Surveys on Community Led Local Development, Scottish Rural Action, and the Scottish Rural Network
If you have been involved in, or applied for funding, through one of these initiatives please look out for an online survey.
We may also invite you to take part in a follow-up interview or focus group.
- 2** Engagement with young people in rural and island areas
If you are aged 18 to 30 years old you can take part in our work with young people, and share your views on current and future rural policy.
- 3** Research with rural and island communities
We are carrying out in-depth research in 6 places: Highlands, Moray, the Scottish Borders, Outer Hebrides, West Lothian and Orkney. This will include workshops, interviews and/or focus groups.

Details will be available in the coming weeks
Visit the project website for more information or scan the QR code:
www.ruralexchange.scot/sruci/





- Scottish Borders
- West Lothian
- Orkney
- Outer Hebrides
- Moray
- Highland



Some reflections

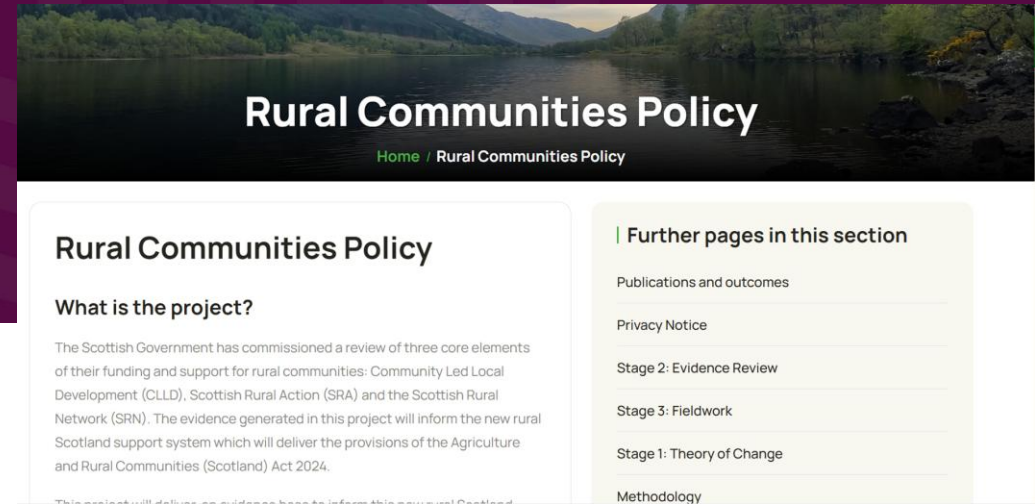


- Scottish Government has funded a Community Led Local Development programme
- Work ongoing to create/strengthen a rural movement
- European Rural Parliament last week in Inverurie; Scottish Rural and Islands Parliament happens every 2 years
- Agriculture and Rural Communities (Scotland) Act 2024
 - Rural Support Plan
 - Rural Delivery Plan
 - Rural Assessment Toolkit
 - New National Islands Plan
- Upcoming Scottish Parliamentary election
 - Lots of MSPs not seeking re-election
 - Potential for political and policy change?



Thank you

- Jane Atterton
- jane.atterton@sruc.ac.uk
- [Rural Policy Centre](#), SRUC (Scotland's Rural College)
- [Rural Exchange](#)
- [Scottish Rural Communities Policy Review](#)



Acknowledgements

RESAS

Rural & Environmental Science
and Analytical Services



Scottish Government
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