

Pre-course Information
Introduction to QGIS for Historic Environment Professionals

Downloading and Installing QGIS

This guide is designed to help you download the latest version of GIS for your operating system. You will need an internet connection to download the software.

QGIS is a cross-platform software which means it can run on a number of different operating systems including Windows, Mac and Linux. Below are instructions for our recommended way to install QGIS on Windows (page 2) and Mac (page 7), instructions for a range of different Linux OS can be found here <https://qgis.org/en/site/forusers/download.html>

If you are working in the UK you will also need to add **two transformation files to your install** so that you have the most accurate version of the OSGB co-ordinate reference system. Don't panic if you don't know what this means at this stage, we will cover it in the course, it's just easiest to do this before you start.

Work through the following instructions carefully and if you need any help please email rebecca@pushingthesensors.com

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QGIS LTR Download Instructions

Installing QGIS Standalone for Windows

We will use the direct download site <https://qgis.org/download/>

1. You will have several options for download on this page.
2. You want to download the LTR version which will be offered as a big green button (currently 3.34 Prizren)

The screenshot shows the QGIS website's download page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the QGIS logo and links for Project, Community, Resources, Download, Donate, and a user icon. Below the navigation bar is a dark blue banner with the text "News: Join the QGIS User Conference 2024" and a search bar. The main content area has a left sidebar with a menu: Project, Community, Resources, Funding, Goodies, Download (highlighted), and Archive. The main heading is "Download QGIS for your platform". Below this, there is a paragraph: "This page provides binary packages (installers). The current version is QGIS 3.38.3 'Grenoble' and was released on 2024-09-13. The long-term builds currently offer QGIS 3.34.11 'Prizren'. QGIS is available on Windows, macOS, Linux, Android and iOS. We are currently in feature freeze preceding the release of QGIS 3.40. Please consider testing the prereleases. See road map." Below this text are two buttons: "Long Term Version for Windows (3.34 LTR)" (highlighted with a red box) and "Latest Version for Windows (3.38)". Below the buttons is a paragraph: "The OSGeo4W installer is recommended for regular users or organization deployments. It allows to have several QGIS versions in one place, and to keep each component up-to-date individually without having to download the whole package." Below this is a button: "OSGeo4W Network Installer". Below the button is a paragraph: "Since QGIS 3.20 we only ship 64-bit Windows executables." Below this is a section titled "Other platforms" with a list of links: Linux, macOS, BSD, Mobile and tablet, Source Code, and Example Datasets.

3. Click the link to the LTR to download the .msi file (QGIS-OSGeo4W-3.34.11-1.msi)
Note the last two parts of the versions number (.11-1) might vary to what is shown above, don't worry about this!
4. Once downloaded, open the installer by double clicking on the file QGIS-OSGeo4W-3.28.X-X.msi

QGIS LTR Download Instructions



5. Follow the install wizard
6. The software might take a while the first time you install so make yourself a cup of tea!
NB If you ever want to uninstall QGIS you can restart this wizard and select uninstall from the options.

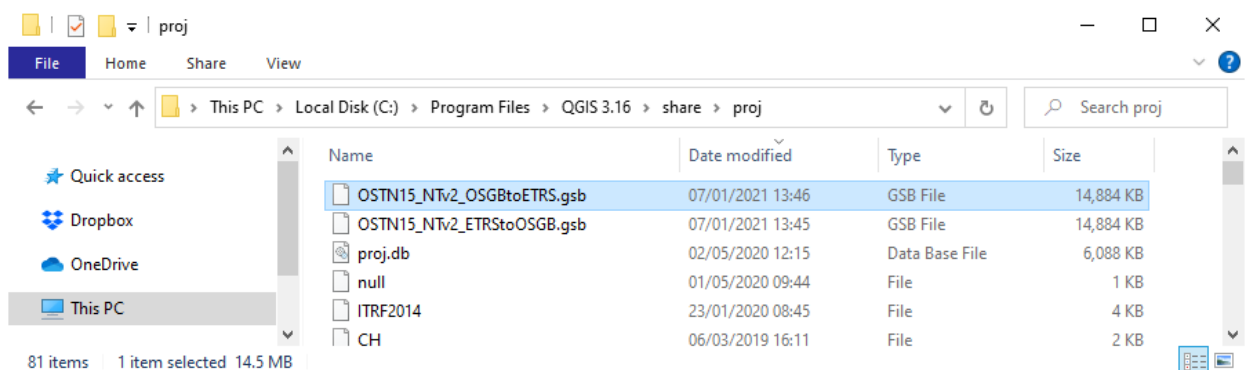
Adding the OSGB Transformation Files (Windows)

If you are working in the UK you will need to download two additional .gsb files and add them to the QGIS projections folder.

1. Download the [OSTN15_NTv2_ETRStoOSGB.zip](#) file containing the projection files.
2. Unzip the folder and move the OSTN15_NTv2_OSGBtoETRS.gsb and OSTN15_NTv2_ETRStoOSGB.gsb files to the proj folder within your QGIS install

"QGIS_PATH"\share\proj

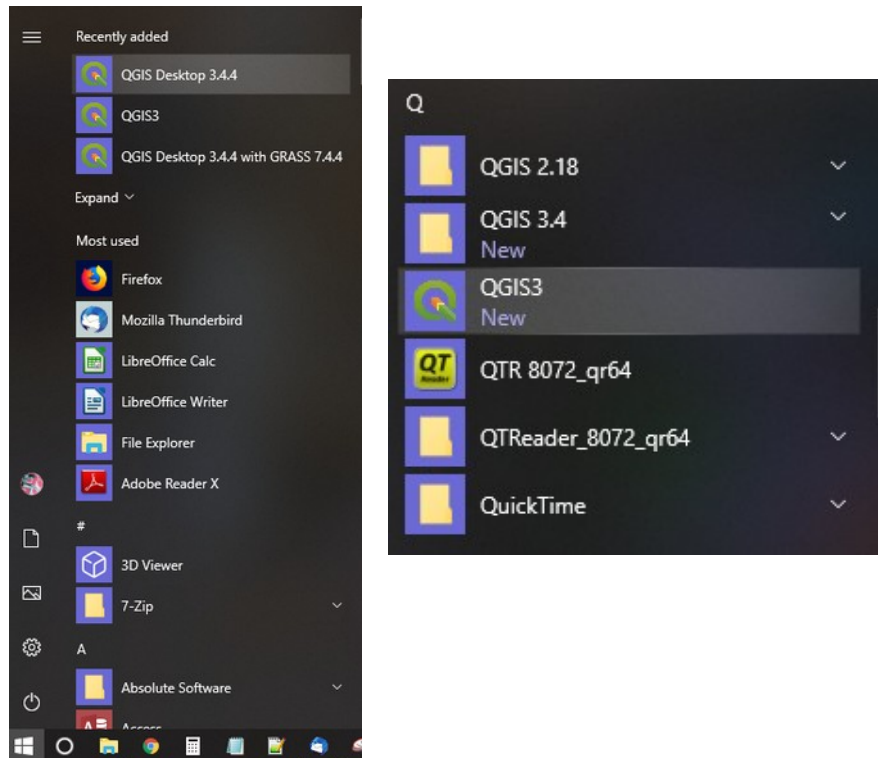
e.g. C:\program files\QGIS3.18\share\proj



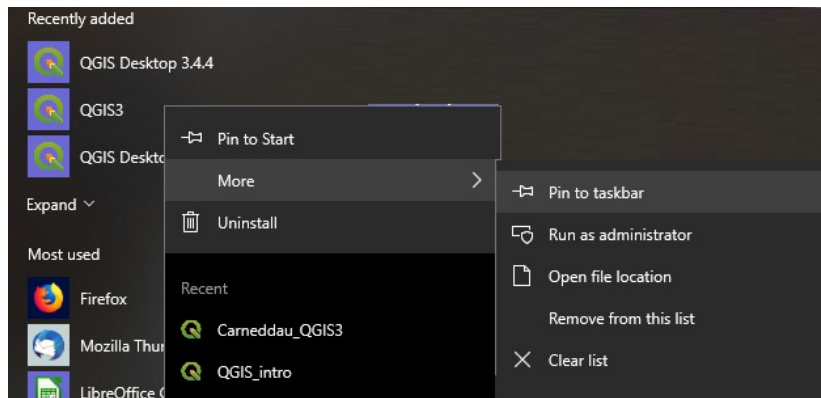
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Creating a Shortcut to QGIS Desktop in Windows

1. The installer doesn't always make desktop icons automatically but you can easily do this by opening the start menu. QGIS3 will either be in your recently added section at the top or under Q

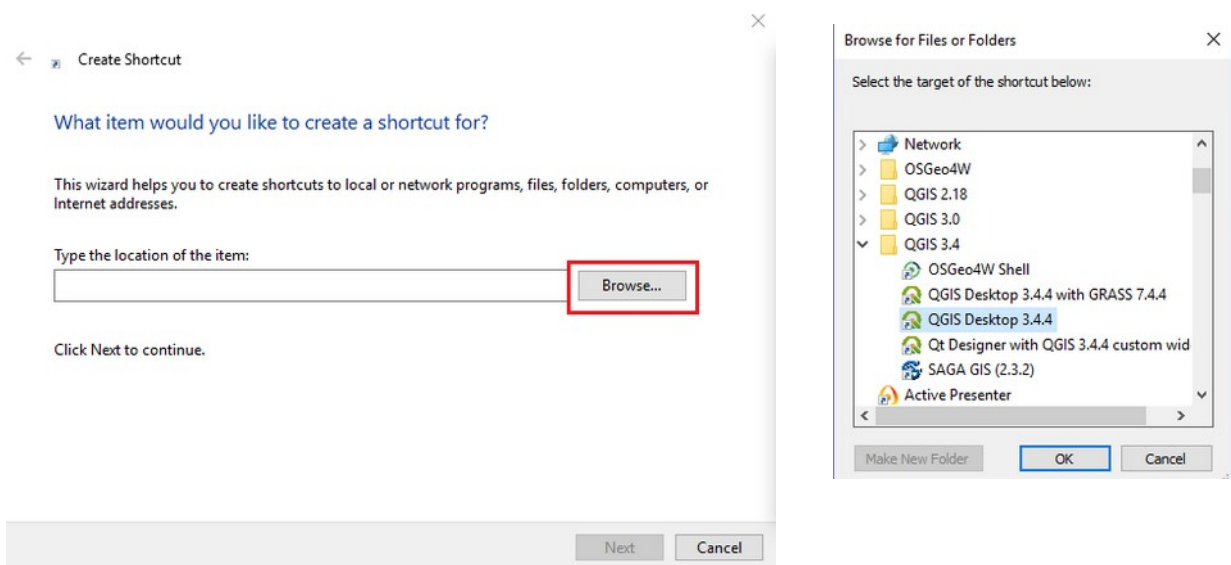
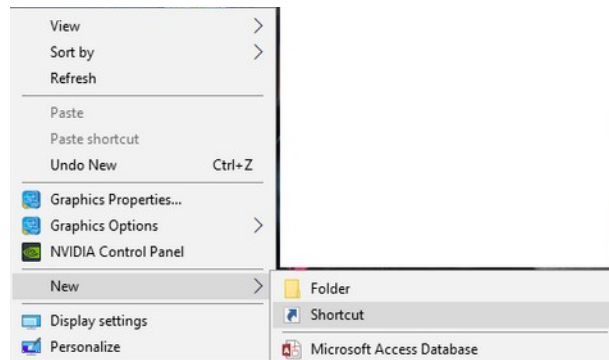


2. Right click to pin to your start menu or task bar



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- To create a short cut on the desktop, right click anywhere on the desktop and select create shortcut. Browse to the QGIS 3.x folder

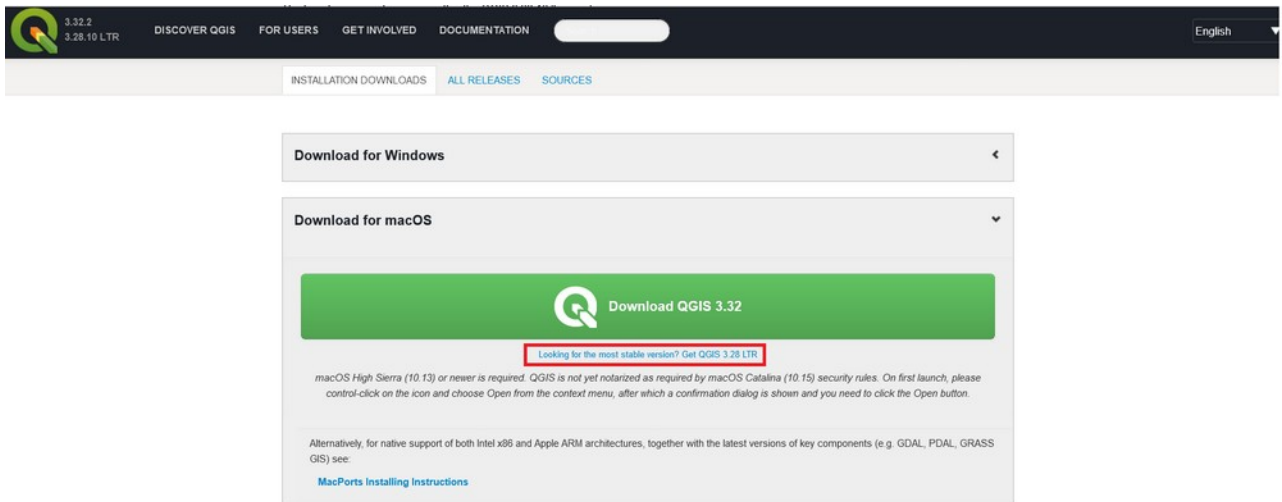


QGIS LTR Download Instructions

Installing QGIS for Mac

Downloading the disk image of QGIS for Mac can be done from the same QGIS download page <https://qgis.org/en/site/forusers/download.html>

Make sure you pick the LTR version (which will be the small hyperlink under the big green button)



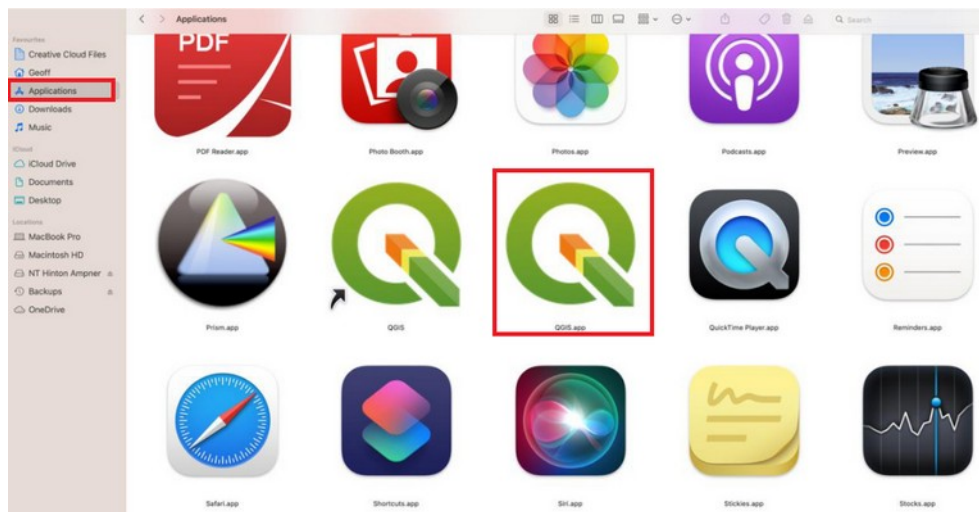
Full installation instructions are in the Read Me on the disk image.

QGIS LTR Download Instructions

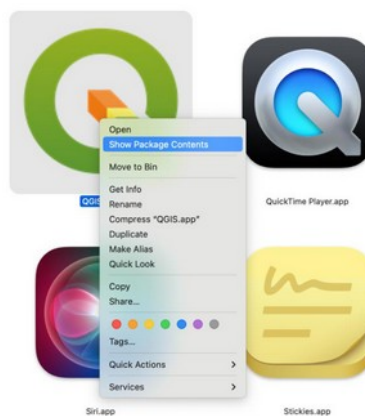
Adding the OSGB Transformation Files (Mac)

If you are working in the UK you will need to download two additional .gsb files and add them to the QGIS projections folder.

1. Download the [OSTN15_NTv2_ETRStoOSGB.zip](#) file containing the projection files.
2. Unzip the folder and move the OSTN15_NTv2_OSGBtoETRS.gsb and OSTN15_NTv2_ETRStoOSGB.gsb files to the proj folder within your QGIS install. To find the proj folder:
 1. click on Applications in left-hand panel to display applications.
 2. Click / Select the QGIS.app icon and then using the Command key, Right Click on the QGIS icon. (Note: the QGIS icon to the left of the app icon is an Alias (shortcut), so make sure you don't select that one)



3. right-click to select the Show Package Contents option



QGIS LTR Download Instructions

4. Navigate to Contents / Resources / proj



5. Paste the two .gsb files in the proj folder

