

## Downloading and Installing QGIS

This guide is designed to help you download the latest version of QGIS 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 or find anything has changed please email [rebecca@pushingthesensors.com](mailto:rebecca@pushingthesensors.com)

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*Please note that while we have found that most corporate IT set ups do allow the user to add plugins once QGIS is installed, sometimes if you are working on a computer that has **very** restricted admin rights you may need to request that the following plugins are also installed along with QGIS. Please refer your IT support to [https://docs.qgis.org/3.40/en/docs/training\\_manual/qgis\\_plugins/fetching\\_plugins.html](https://docs.qgis.org/3.40/en/docs/training_manual/qgis_plugins/fetching_plugins.html) for instructions.*

*All Courses:*

- *QuickmapServices*

*Making the Most of Lidar*

- *The Relief Visualisation Toolbox (RVT)*

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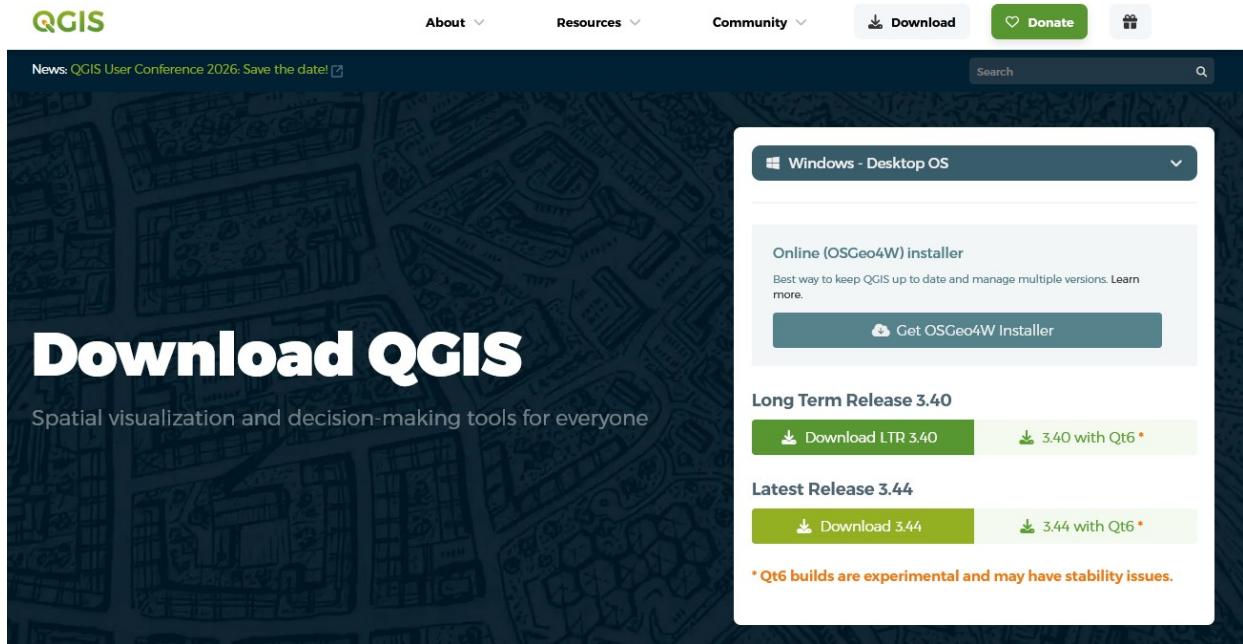
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### Installing QGIS Standalone for Windows

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

1. You will have several options for download on this page.
2. First select your operating system from the drop down menu
3. We need the **Long Term Release (LTR)** version which will be offered as the first green button (currently 3.40 Bratislava)



4. Click the **Download LTR button** to download the .msi file (QGIS-OSGeo4W-3.40.5-1.msi)  
Note the last two parts of the versions number (.5-1) might vary to what is shown above, don't worry about this!
5. Once downloaded, open the installer by double clicking on the file QGIS-OSGeo4W-3.40.X-X.msi
6. Follow the install wizard
7. The software might take a while the first time you install so make yourself a cup of tea!

## QGIS LTR Download Instructions

NB If you ever want to uninstall QGIS you can restart this wizard and select uninstall from the options.



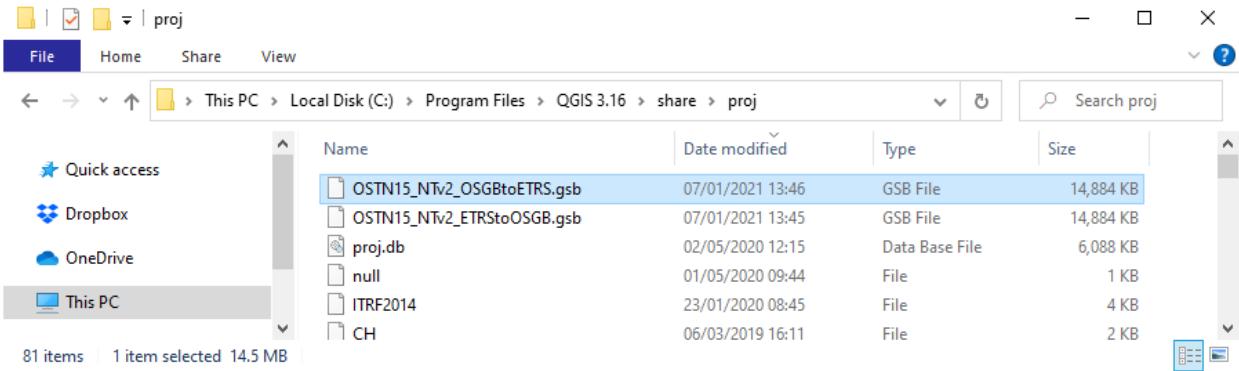
## Adding the OSGB Transformation Files (Windows)

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

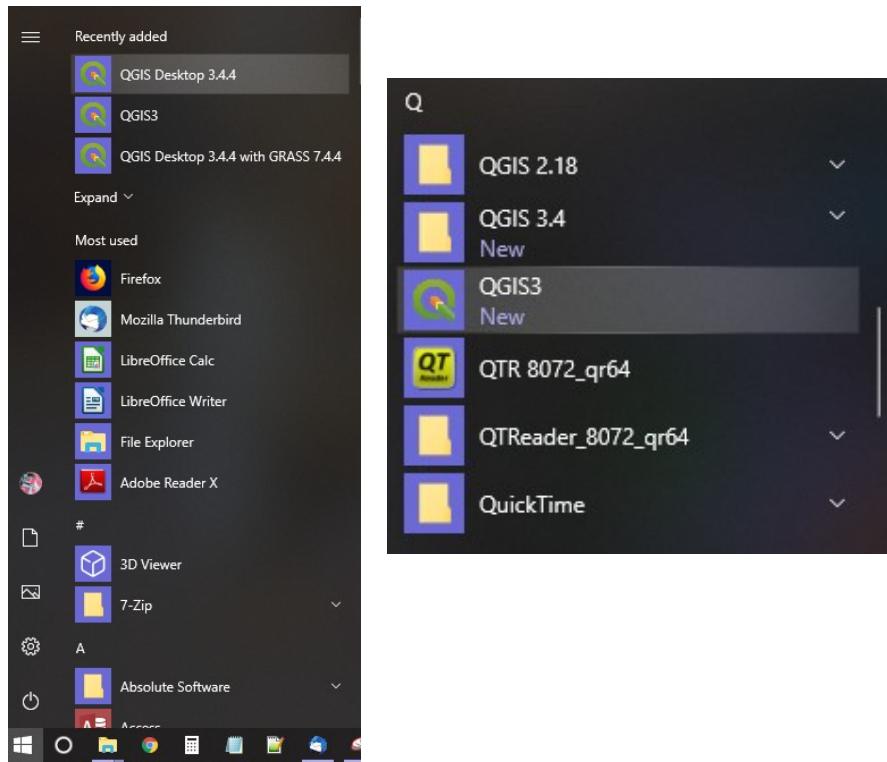
**"QGIS\_PATH"\share\proj**

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

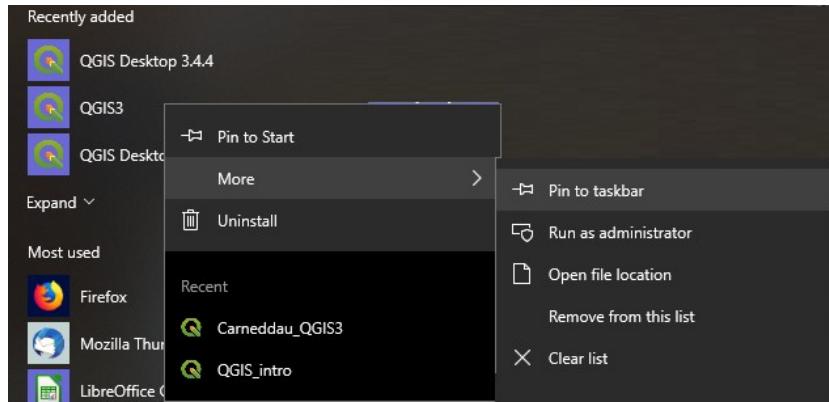


## Creating a Shortcut to QGIS Desktop in Windows

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

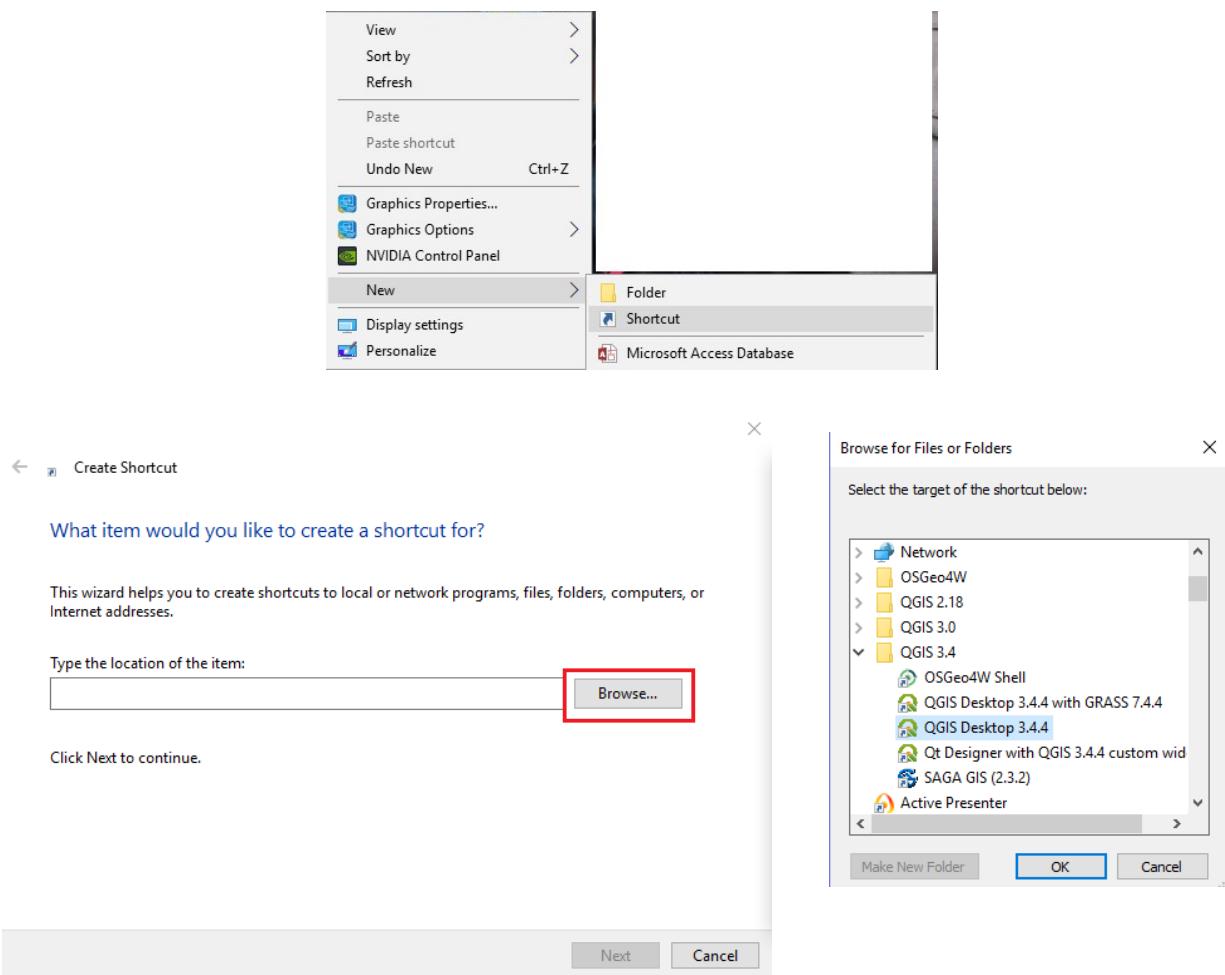


2. Right click to pin to your start menu or task bar



## QGIS LTR Download Instructions

3. 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



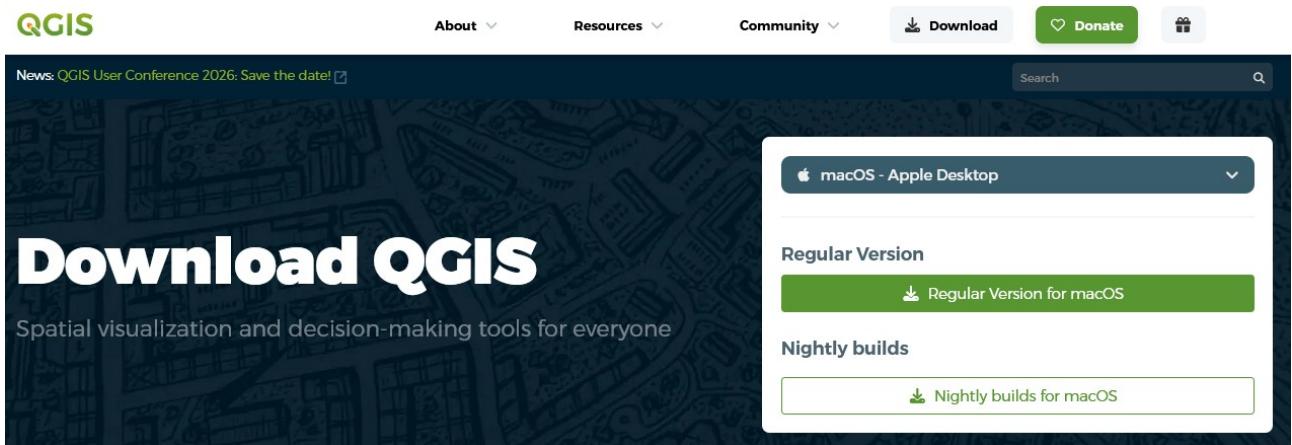
### Installing QGIS for Mac

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>

1. First select your operating system from the drop down menu



2. Then download the **Regular Version for MacOS** which will be offered as the first green button (currently 3.40 Bratislava)



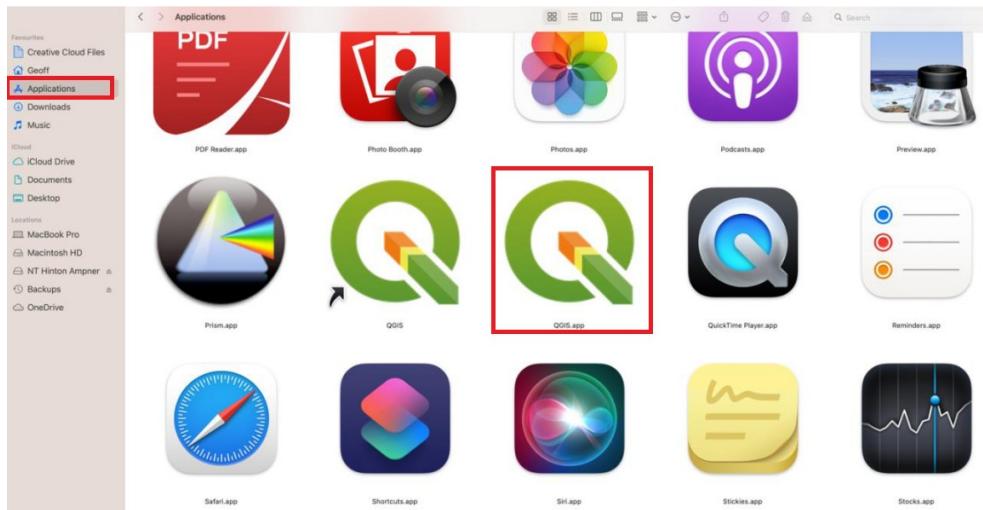
Full installation instructions are in the **Read Me** on the disk image.

## QGIS LTR Download Instructions

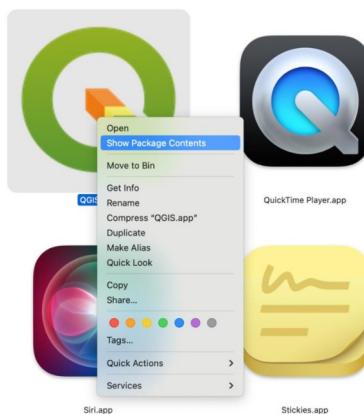
### Adding the OSGB Transformation Files (Mac)

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

