

Notes to the Transcripts and Translations

Transcription Policy

Original spelling has been retained.

Contractions and suspensions have been expanded using italics, whether or not they are indicated by the scribes.

Spacing marks over erasures have been ignored.

The very rare instances of original punctuation have been reproduced, but no punctuation has been added.

The use of capital letters in the plea rolls is random and so often ambiguous that we have deemed it neither practical nor important to attempt to interpret this diplomatically. Modern capitalisation has been applied to the Latin. We have allowed the sense of the Latin to guide our decisions as to when *Et* begins a sentence and when it is used as a conjunction.

In warrants of attorney the words *ponit loco* are commonly abbreviated into a single word: *polo*. We have not attempted to indicate these elisions.

All editorial translations are presented against a coloured background for ease of navigation.

In the translations, we have retained the customary spellings of names already familiar from the musicological literature, *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* and *The Dictionary of National Biography*. For other names we have adopted the spelling most frequently used in the Latin entries.

The court officials who compiled the plea rolls habitually saved themselves labour and space by replacing routine legal formulas with the abbreviation ‘&c’ (*et cetera*). This practice was centuries old and it can be very difficult to discover the words omitted. Insofar as we have been able, we have completed the first appearance of each type of entry by providing the additional text between square brackets, introduced by ‘*viz.*’. Thereafter ‘&c’ is left unexpanded.

Law Terms

The dates of the law terms were as follows:¹

Hilary Term: 23 or 24 January to 12 or 13 February;

Easter Term: the third Wednesday after Easter to the Monday after Ascension Day;

Trinity Term: the Wednesday (or, from 1541 onwards, the Friday) after Corpus Christi to 11 or 12 July;

Michaelmas Term: 9 or 10 October to 28 or 29 November.

¹ David Wilkins (ed.), *Concilia Magnae Britanniae et Hiberniae*, 4 vols (1737), iii, 823–4; C. R. Cheney (ed), rev. Michael Jones, *A Handbook of Dates for Students of British History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), 135.