The following abbreviations are used in the text.

fw: immediate forerunner of a word, in the same or another language.
rw: ultimate traceable word, from which ‘root’ meanings are derived.
q.v.: see entry under word noted.
C: followed by numeral, century (C19: nineteenth century).
eC: first period (third) of a century.
mC: middle period (third) of a century.
lC: last period (third) of a century.
c.: (before a date) approximately.
AN: Anglo-Norman.
mE: Middle English (c. 1100–1500).
oE: Old English (to c. 1100).
F: French.
mF: Medieval French.
oF: Old French.
G: German.
Gk: Classical Greek.
It: Italian.
L: Latin.
lL: late Latin.
mL: Medieval Latin.
vL: Vulgar Latin.
Rom: Romanic.
Sp: Spanish.

Quotations followed by a name and date only, or a date only, are from examples cited in OED. Other quotations are followed by specific sources. References to secondary works are by author’s name, as entered in References and Select Bibliography.