

Dates at which some of the earliest French loanwords are first attested in English.

Before the Conquest

castle, chancellor, proud, press ('machine for pressing'); *probably* flank, juggler

Before 1100

religious: chaplain, pilgrim, service

military: arbalest, marshal

political: prison

other: cordwainer

1105 Nativity ('Christmas'; *spelled* Natiuiteð, with 11th-c. French phonology)

1112 granger

1116 war (nn.)

1119 council (ecclesiastical)

1120 accord (vb., 'make peace between')

1123 legate

1129 duke

1130 fosse(-road)

1150 harbor, marble, pillar

1154 charity (*spelled* carited), countess, court, empress, justice, miracle, peace, rent, standard ('military flag'), tenserie, treasure, war (vb.)

—the above from the last continuation of the Peterborough Chronicle

1160 eisell ('vinegar')

1175 blanchet ('white face powder'), erite ('heretic'), feeble, garner, gluttonry, grace, herberger ('one who provides lodging'), Jew, large, lecher, prove, robber, saint, sermon (vb., 'preach'), serve, wastine ('wilderness')

—the above from the Lambeth Homilies

?1185 baleen ('sea-bream')

?1190 rankle ('festering sore')

1200 absolution, (a)stroy ('destroy'), baptist, baron, becatch ('seize'), bezant, blame, bolt (vb., 'sift'), burnet ('dark brown'), butt (vb.), chaste (vb., 'chastize'), collation ('conference'), coney ('rabbit'), corporas (nn., 'corporal', i.e. 'cloth on which the consecrated host is placed'), custom, easy ('at ease'), eremite

(‘hermit’), ermine, feast, fine (‘cessation’), flower, fustian (‘coarse cloth’), gab (‘reproach’), grave (‘steward’), honor, hurt (vb.), lamp, languste (‘locust’), prime-sign (vb., ‘mark with the sign of the cross’), religion, richesse, rout (‘assembly’), sabeline (‘sable fur’), saffron, scorn, sepulchre, sergeant (‘serving-man’), sermon (nn.), simnel (‘boiled bun’), spouse, strait (‘narrow, strict’), sue (‘follow’), truss (nn., ‘bundle’), vie (‘saint’s life’), virgin, wait, waste (nn., ‘wasteland’)

—the above from the Trinity College Homilies, Vices and Virtues, the Poema Morale, the Ormulum, and a few other documents; a few words from the Ancrene Riwe and the Katherine group were also given this date by the editors

1205 admiral, ampulle (‘small flask’), apostoile (‘pope’), arche (‘ark’), arrive, astronomy, bank (‘bench’), bat (‘stick of wood’), beubelet (‘bauble’), bound (‘boundary’), cable, calendar, canel (‘cinnamon’), canon (‘monk living in a cathedral community’), catch, chaisel (‘fine linen’), close (vb.), coriun (name of an unidentifiable musical instrument), douzepers (the ‘twelve peers’ of Charlemagne), essel (‘beam, bar’), estre (‘being, way of life’), hermit, hurt (nn.), latimer (‘interpreter’), legion, licorice, luff (‘machine for shifting sails’), lyre, senate, senator, sire, waste (vb., ‘lay waste’)

—the above from Lazamon’s Brut

1210–1225

amend, anguish, arles (‘down payment’), aromat (‘spice’), assail, atour (nn., ‘attire’), aturn (vb., ‘attire’), avow, balm, basin, beak, beast, (be)guile, belamy (‘good friend’), besample (‘moralize’), boil (vb.), boist (‘box’), brief (‘letter’), brooch, buffet, burgess (‘townsperson’), cage, canonial (‘canonical’), capital (adj.), carrion, case, cause, cave, cete(grande) (‘whale’), challenge, chamber, chamberlain, champion, change (nn. and vb.), chapel, chapter, charge (‘load’, nn. and vb.), chaste, chastity, chattel (‘movable property’), cheer (‘face’), cherté (‘fondness’), ciclatoun (a type of expensive cloth), city, clause, clergy, clove, ... cule (‘rump’), dragon, oil, park, simple, tire (‘pull, draw’), venom, &c., &c.

—the above from the Ancrene Riwe, the Katherine group, an early bestiary, and a few other documents