

# **Finding individuals convicted of buggery, gross indecency, sodomy, indecent assault and so on in the 'After-Trial' Calendars of Prisoners (HO 140) National Archives**

## **How To Guide**

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### **A note on the use of the How to Guides.**

The help guides included in this toolkit are introductions to the one approach towards undertaking research within online criminal archives, the British Newspaper Archive, Find my Past, and Ancestry. The guides are in no way comprehensive of all approaches taken to research within these databases and are intended as a guide towards getting started. This Help Guide will need the user to have a personal live subscription to the Find my Past; this is not provided by the Broken Futures team.

**Step 1:** As an introduction to the use of National Archives HO 140 records: 'After-Trial Calendars of Prisoners for the Quarter Sessions and Assizes', please read the section titled 'National Archives – Calendars of Prisoners' to understand the use of this record set for the purposes of recollecting experiences of the criminal justice system for individuals convicted of same-sex sex.

**Step 2:** Open up an example Excel spreadsheet, or use our template available at, [www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit](http://www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit)

	Court	Place	Date of hearing	Total number of pris' in the calendar	Name	Age	Trade	Degree of instruction	Name and address of committing magistrate	Date of warrant	When received into custody		Offence as charged	When tried	Before whom tried	Verdict	Sentence or order of the court
1																	
2																	

Court, Place and Date of Hearing  
found from the first page of the record

This information will be located once you've found an individual charged with a same-sex sexual offence.

5

**Step 3:** Searching the HO 140 record set is available at the following link:

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/england-and-wales-crime-prisons-and-punishment-1770-1935> . Unlike previous How to Guides, research in the HO 140 Record Set available on Find

my Past does not rely on knowing an individuals name, as this is where we are going to locate those names. Two initial decisions need to be made before completing search in this record set....

1) Which county are you researching? (BF team: Berkshire)

2) Choose the date range of interest (BF Team: 1861 to 1920 )

**Step 4:** The first thing to do is to work out which years are stored within the HO 140. Whilst the Ho 140 files are helpful for completing remote research, they are not complete and some records have not yet been downloaded. Please load up an Excel Spreadsheet with your list of dates, per the suggestion below. This is also able to download from [www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit](http://www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit) titled: "HO 140 NA Date + Record Return Sheet"

Year	Records Available	Link
1861		
1862		
1863		
1864		
1865		
1866		
1867		
1868		
1869		
1870		
1871		
1872		
1873		
1874		
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1899		

**Step 5:** Head to: <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/england-and-wales-crime-prisons-and-punishment-1770-1935> . Using the below search options, input each date and check the amount of records located, make a note of the number and the link (by hitting search and copying the URL link) for each to allow easy to access to each of the finds. As per the example below, for the year 1861, no results were found. Repeat for each year recording in the spreadsheet the number of returns and the link.

**Find past** Log In Sign Up Start your family tree

**England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935**  
Were your ancestors in trouble with the law? Follow them through over 5 million records of criminals who passed through the justice system in England and Wales between 1770 and 1935. Find out where they stood trial, what sentence they were given and what their life was like in prison.  
Learn more Useful links

**Who**  
First name(s) Last name  
   
☒ Name variants ☐ Name variants

**When**  
Birth year Give or take Year Give or take  
YYYY -/+ 2yrs 1861 -/+ 2yrs

**Place**  
Start typing a Place  
Berkshire x Berkshire Assizes x Berkshire Sessions x

**Series**  
Start typing a Series  
Ho140 x

**Piece number**

**Keyword search**

No results found Clear search

Learn about these records  
What can these records tell me?

Useful links and resources  
Prison Ship (Hulk) Registers

Input the county of interest, including any variations by choosing 'browse place' and typing in your county of interest

Input the record set of interest by clicking 'browse series' and clicking Ho 140

Input the first year of interest

Check the number of results returned and record on your excel spreadsheet.

**Step 6:** Inputting the dates, our first find was in 1866, with 125 returns are found... hit view!

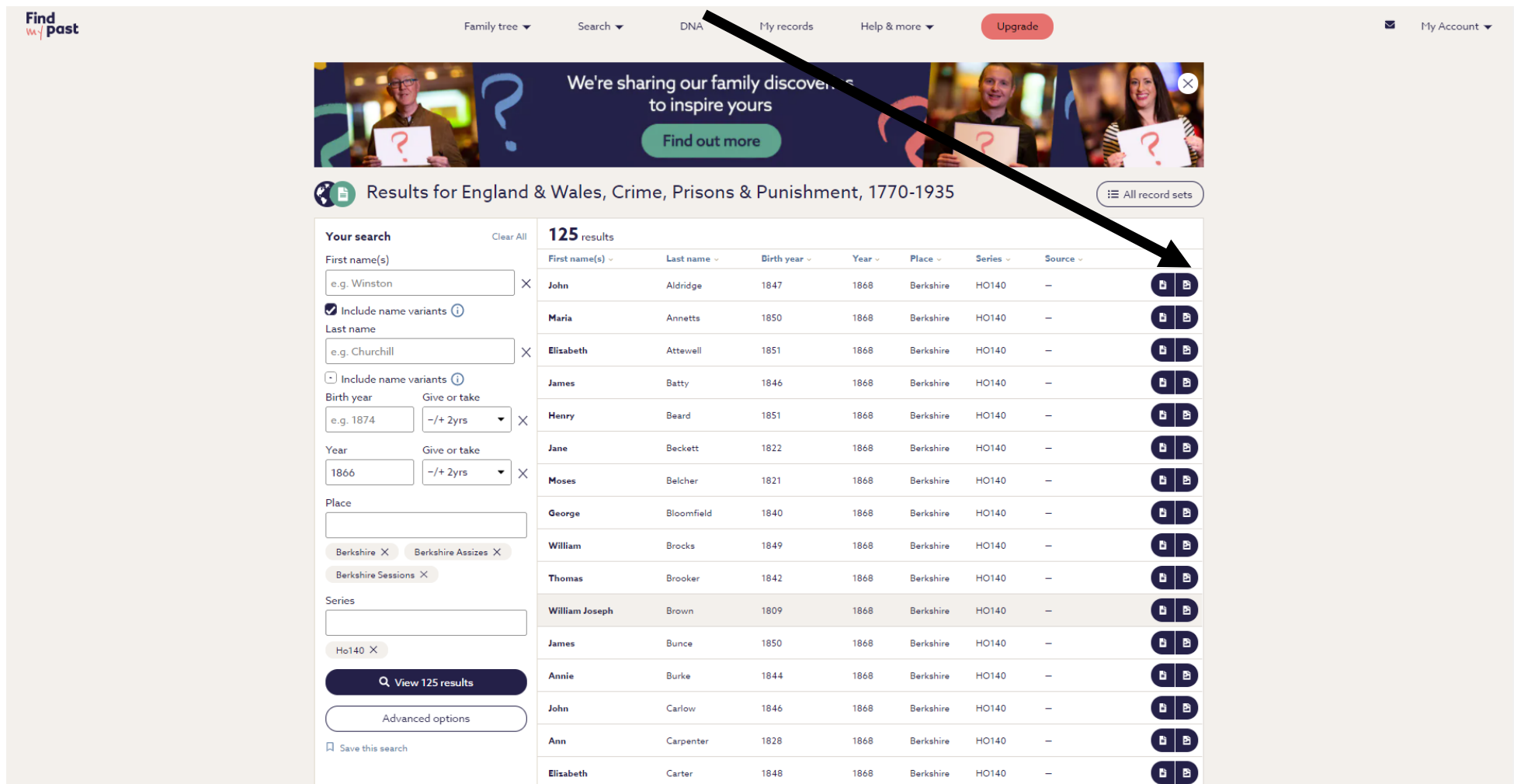
The screenshot shows the Findmypast search interface for the collection 'England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935'. The search criteria are as follows:

- Who:** First name(s) and Last name fields are empty. 'Name variants' is checked.
- When:** Birth year is 'YYYY' with a '-/+ 2yrs' range. Year is '1866' with a '-/+ 2yrs' range.
- Place:** 'Start typing a Place' field is empty. Suggested places include 'Berkshire', 'Berkshire Assizes', and 'Berkshire Sessions'.
- Series:** 'Start typing a Series' field is empty. Suggested series is 'Ho140'.
- Piece number:** Empty field.
- Keyword search:** Empty field.

At the bottom, there is a search button labeled 'View 125 Results' and a 'Clear search' link. A large black arrow points from the text 'Step 6' to the 'View 125 Results' button.

It's important to note at this point that there are usually four entries per year for the Calendars of Prisoners across the seasons (Spring, Summer, Winter and Autumn), meaning that for each year there are four hearings, and four sets of 'After-Trial' Calendars of Prisoners. This is why research in the HO 140 files should be supported by research within the actual records stored at local archives.

**Step 7:** Once you've checked the amount of returns per year, let's head to the link for the first year with records located. The following web page will load, click view record on the first return.



The screenshot shows the Findmypast website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Family tree, Search, DNA, My records, Help & more, and an Upgrade button. Below this is a banner with the text "We're sharing our family discoveries to inspire yours" and a "Find out more" button. The main heading is "Results for England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment, 1770-1935". On the left, there's a "Your search" sidebar with filters for First name(s), Last name, Birth year, Year, Place, and Series. The main results area shows 125 results in a table format. A black arrow points to the "View record" button for the first result, John Aldridge.

First name(s)	Last name	Birth year	Year	Place	Series	Source	View record
John	Aldridge	1847	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	
Maria	Annetts	1850	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	
Elisabeth	Attewell	1851	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	
James	Batty	1846	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	
Henry	Beard	1851	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	
Jane	Beckett	1822	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	
Moses	Belcher	1821	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	
George	Bloomfield	1840	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	
William	Brocks	1849	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	
Thomas	Brooker	1842	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	
William Joseph	Brown	1809	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	
James	Bunce	1850	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	
Annie	Burke	1844	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	
John	Carlow	1846	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	
Ann	Carpenter	1828	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	
Elisabeth	Carter	1848	1868	Berkshire	HO140	—	

**Step 8:** When the record loads, it should look something like below. The way the Calendar of Prisoners appear changes depending on the date, and some may appear on blue or beige paper, but the information included is usually the same. Using the view pages option, we want to head to the start of the entry for Berkshire's calendars of prisoners...

https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record/browse?id=tna%2fcc%2fho140%201%2f00083

Options Viewer controls More 80% +

No.	Name	Age	Trade	Degree of Imprisonment	Name and Address of Submitting Magistrate	Date of Warrant	When received into Custody	Offence as charged in the Commitment	When tried	Before whom tried	Verdict of the Jury	Sentence or Order of the Court
IN THE GAOL AT READING.												
1	Charles Pearce	30	Labourer	Imp.	Robert Nicholson, Esq., Mayor, Maidenhead.	March 2nd, 1868.	March 3rd, 1868.	Fraudulently converting to his own use, thirteen shillings and sixpence, the monies of George Lawrie, at Cockham, on the 29th day February, 1868.	7th April, 1868.	R. Benyon, Esq., M.P., Chairman.	Not guilty of larceny.	
2	John Aldridge	21	Ditto	N.	John Benson Gower, Esq., Holford, Bracknell.	March 9th, 1868.	March 9th, 1868.	Attempting to commit an unnatural offence with a certain ewe sheep, at Hurd.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Not Guilty of attempting to commit an unnatural offence.	
3	Henry Watts	19	Carpenter	Imp.	Rev. John Ferdinando Collins, Bett's, Wantage, Philip Wootley, Esq., Wantage, and Thomas Wootley Goodlake, Esq., Bucksland, near Faringham.	March 18th, 1868.	March 18th, 1868.	Maliciously wounding with a knife, Thomas Rogers, at Wantage, on the 15th March, 1868.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Guilty of common assault.	Imprisonment with hard labour for 4 calendar months.
4	Samuel Gillett	19	Labourer	Imp.	Robert V. Maitland, Esq., Chedd, Maidenhead.	March 20th, 1868.	March 20th, 1868.	Stealing 2 lbs. weight of lead and a certain dwelling house, the property of Charles Easton, at Remenham, on the 19th March, 1868.	Ditto.	G. C. Cherry, Esq., Vice-Chairman.	Pleaded guilty of larceny, fixtures.	Imprisonment with hard labour for 3 calendar months.
5	Daniel Hughes	19	Ditto	Imp.		Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
6	Mary Ann Park	20	No occupation	R.	Henry Havelock, Esq., Mayor, Wallingford.	April 3rd, 1868.	April 3rd, 1868.	Stealing £27 5s. 0d., one bag, and one necktie, the monies and property of William Allshead, at Wallingford, on the 28th May, 1866.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Not guilty of larceny, dwelling-house.	
7	Jane Halsey (Admitted to Bail March 4, 1868.)	52	Charing	N.	Robt. Nicholson, Esq., Maidenhead.	4th March, 1868.	7th April, 1868.	Obtaining by means of false pretence one pair of black cloth trousers, the property of Robert Lawrie, at Bray, on the 11th November, 1867.	Ditto.	R. Benyon, Esq., M.P.	Guilty of fraud.	Imprisonment with hard labour for 3 weeks.

Record Pages Linked transcripts Close all pages Page 83 of 950 Go

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Step 9: It should look similar to below, perhaps on blue or beige coloured paper. The information explained through the blue arrows will be recorded on the first excel spreadsheet: “HO 140 COP List of Individuals – Template” available at on our resources/templates page of our website!

County where the court hearing took place

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record/browse?id=tna%2fcc%2fho140%2f238%2f00120&parentid=tna%2f00120&parentid=tna%2f00120](https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record/browse?id=tna%2fcc%2fho140%2f238%2f00120&parentid=tna%2f00120). The browser tabs include 'SU - Zendesk', 'Access Panel Applic...', 'CCTV Snapshot Sys...', 'Broken Futures - Un...', 'Search results for "...', and 'Getting Started'. The page title is 'England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment Browse, 1770-1935 Image'. The document is titled 'COUNTY OF BERKS. CALENDAR OF PRISONERS' and is dated '1905'. The document is held at the 'MICHAELMAS GENERAL' and 'QUARTER SESSIONS OF THE PEACE'. The court is 'ASSIZE COURTS, READING, on MONDAY, the 16th day of OCTOBER, 1905'. The report is by 'SIR ROBERT GRAY CORNISH MOWBRAY, BARONET, M.P., AND REGINALD BRODIE DYKE ACLAND, ESQUIRE, K.C.'. The justices are 'JOHN THORNTON, MOWBRAY, Esq., Clerk of the Peace'. The document is a 'CALENDAR OF PRISONERS'.

Annotations and arrows:

- Page Locator**: A box on the left side of the document with a vertical list of numbers (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100) and a 'Go' button. An arrow points from this box to the 'Go' button at the bottom of the document.
- document = CALENDAR OF PRISONERS**: An arrow points from this text to the title 'CALENDAR OF PRISONERS'.
- The season = e.g. Michaelmas/Epiphany General**: An arrow points from this text to 'MICHAELMAS GENERAL'.
- The court = e.g. Quarter Sessions of the Peace/Assizes Courts**: An arrow points from this text to 'QUARTER SESSIONS OF THE PEACE'.
- Date the court sat: e.g. Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Oct 1905**: An arrow points from this text to 'MONDAY, the 16th day of OCTOBER, 1905'.
- The Magistrates who heard the case**: An arrow points from this text to 'SIR ROBERT GRAY CORNISH MOWBRAY, BARONET, M.P., AND REGINALD BRODIE DYKE ACLAND, ESQUIRE, K.C.'.
- Arrows to change the pages of the calendar**: A box at the bottom center with arrows pointing left and right, and a 'Go' button. An arrow points from this box to the 'Go' button at the bottom of the document.



Name of the individual on trial + their previous convictions

Their Age, Trade and degree of instruction

Name + Address of Committing magistrates, date of warrant + when received into custody

The Official Legal Charge the individual faced

Outcome of the court

Sentence

England & Wales, Crime, Prisons & Punishment Browse, 1770-1935 Image

No.	NAME.	Age.	TRADE.	Degree of Instruction	Name and Address of Committing Magistrate	Date of Warrant.	When received into Custody.	Particulars of Offence or Offences as charged in the Indictment.	When tried.	Before whom tried.	Verdict of the Jury.	Particulars of Previous Convictions charged in the indictment and proved in Court.	Sentence or Order of the Court.	No.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<div>Prisoners</div> <div>Tried.</div>														
1	Frank Smith Boned over. Broad Petty Sessions, 8th May, 1909 (larceny as a bailor, as Sidney Alfred Lashbury, 2 days and 1 Gloucester County Quarter Sessions, 21st October, 1909 (burglary, 3 charges), as Sidney Alfred Lashbury, 2 months, Gloucester County Quarter Sessions, 22nd June, 1904 (stealing 24s.) as Sidney Alfred Lashbury.	1st	Tailor	...	Col. George Shippen Willes and Major John Aldridge, Hungerford Petty Sessions.	1005 June 29th	1905 June 29th	On 21st June, 1905, at Hungerford, feloniously stealing one blouse, containing one dress, six shirts, four blouses, two hats, one shawl, one pair of gloves, one night dress, two neckties, two lace collars, two handkerchiefs, two pairs of socks, and certain flannel, the property of Maggie Flatten.	1905 16th Oct.	Sir H. G. C. Mowbray, Bart, M.P.	Pleaded guilty	Gloucester Quarter Sessions, 21st June, 1905, larceny, 3 calendar months.	1 calendar month hard labour.	1
2	Henry Brooker 5 years penal servitude, Surrey Sessions, 4th June, 1895 (receiving stolen goods, etc.), as Thomas Wilson, 15 months, Salisbury Assizes, 12th November, 1898 (burglary), as Henry Brooker, 5 years penal servitude, Berks County Quarter Sessions, 15th October, 1890 (stealing a portrait), as Frederick Joyce, 4 months, Berks Assizes, 16th June, 1890 (false pretences), as Frederick Joyce, 6 months, Richmond Petty Sessions, 20th June, 1898 (stealing a silver goblet), as Henry Seymour, 14 days, Andover Petty Sessions, 20th March, 1901 (stealing plates), as George Gray, 6 months, Winchester Quarter Sessions, 15th October, 1901 (housebreaking), as George Gray, 3 years penal servitude, 6 months hard labour, concurrent, Lewes County Quarter Sessions, 15th October, 1902 (stealing a watch, etc.; attempted sexual offence), as Frederick Cox.	64	Stableman	...	Edmund Benson, Foster, Reg., and Hugh Owen Tudor, Reg., Windsor Petty Sessions.	July 1st	June 17th (on remand)	On 14th June, 1905, at Old Windsor, feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Edward Lewis Blight and therein feloniously stealing one coat, one waistcoat, one pair of trousers, one flannel shirt, one neck scarf, one smoking pipe, one pair of socks and one pair of boots, his property. 2nd Count—On same date and place, feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of Herbert Henry Cox and stealing the said goods. 3rd Count—On same date and place, feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of E. E. Blight and stealing three sheets and six handkerchiefs, the property of Reginald Henry Cox. 4th Count—On same date and place, feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of R. H. Cox and stealing the said three sheets and six handkerchiefs, his property. 5th Count—On same date and place, feloniously breaking and entering the dwelling-house of R. H. Cox and stealing the said three sheets and six handkerchiefs, his property.	19th Oct.	R. D. Dyke Acland, Esq., R.C.	Guilty ...	Lewes Quarter Sessions, 14th October, 1902, larceny, 3 years penal servitude.	3 years penal servitude	5


Arrows to change the pages of the calendar

Page Locator – type in the page number and hit Go to quickly move through the record

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Report image error Print Download



Step 10: Now that we have the calendar open for this particular session of the Quarter Sessions or Assizes, let's flick through to see if there are any cases of buggery, sodomy, gross indecency, and any other variation of offence relating to sex between men. For more information on the indictments, please visit our toolkit: [www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit](http://www.brokenfutures.co.uk/toolkit) . Record each individual on a new line in your excel spreadsheet.

**Step 11:** Once you've found an individual, keep flicking through the pages to check if there were any other hearings before the courts that we might be interested in. Once you've located someone else, repeat the same steps and record their information.

**Step 6:** If you've finished all the pages of this record head to the next and complete the process. A helpful reminder that there are four quarter sessions/assizes per year, meaning that you are looking for 4 different sessions recorded each year.

