

Pigeon Houses In Herefordshire And Gower

By Alfred Watkins

There is but little danger that the dwelling houses, churches, and religious houses, which remain to us from a past generation, shall be swept away without a full record being made of their character and use, through the labours of many willing workers.

But in the case of the more humble buildings of which I speak, the same cannot be said. In my own county—Herefordshire—there are still a large number of interesting examples left, but each decade lessens the number, and out of a list of thirty-four demolished pigeon houses which I have compiled, not one has, to my knowledge, been described or illustrated. Of the seventy-four existing examples which I have surveyed (and photographed for the most part) only one, that at Garway, had previously been described.

It was this consideration which induced me to make as complete a survey as possible of the dovecotes of Herefordshire. It is perhaps well to define the class of building I wish to investigate, viz., the substantial tower-like building, the direct descendant of the Norman columbarium, built from the ground for the one chief purpose of housing pigeons for breeding purposes, although in later days they have been built in two stories, the lower part being put to other uses.

The mere loft over stables, or picturesque barrel dovecot on a pole, or cluster of nesting boxes against a wall, I do not include.

¹Read in the Architectural Section, at the Annual Meeting of the Institute, at Gloucester, August 15th, 1890.

I have no new light to throw upon the question as to when the English people first kept pigeons in dovecotes; but nothing I have seen tends to disturb the usual opinion that it was the Norman conqueror who first introduced into England the massive pigeon tower which has served as type for so many succeeding generations, and with it the feudal "right of dovecote" which survived until the time of Elizabeth, under which the lords of the manor and rectors alone possessed the right of maintaining a dovecote. The earliest example in Herefordshire (and probably the finest in England) still stands in capital preservation at the Church Farm, Garway, in the secluded Monnow Valley. This building has been so fully and accurately described and illustrated by the Rev. John Webb in vol. xxxi, of the *Archæologia*, 1845, that there is no need for me to go into full details. It is, like all those of Norman origin, circular, stone built, the top domed over with stone leaving a two feet opening for the pigeons to enter. Mr. Webb assigns its building to the Knights Hospitallers, successors to the Knights Templars, the latter order having founded a preceptory on the site where the pigeon house now stands; and he deciphers an inscription which may still be seen in a half obliterated condition on a tympanum over the doorway to be as follows : — " In the year 1326 brother Richard built this columbarium." Some mason marks—crosses of the two knightly orders, and the word Gilbertus—are inscribed on the stones lining the interior, each one of which is carefully dressed to the interior curve of the building. The walls are three feet ten inches thick and are lined from floor to arch with tiers of nesting holes, 666 in all. Perhaps it may be as well at this point to describe the pigeon holes or nest holes in this building as their construction is similar in dovecotes of all periods. The openings of the holes are about six inches square, and they recede about fourteen inches into the substance of the wall. If the cavity were of the same size throughout its depth, the bird would not have room to sit upon her scanty nest, it therefore enlarges right or left into an L shaped cavity about ten inches in width. The holes are arranged twenty inches apart in rows, each row or tier being ten inches above the one below. An

alighting ledge of stone projects underneath each alternate tier of holes, the intermediate tier of holes being without alighting ledges. I cannot guess at the reason for this, but I find these alternate ledges copied in pigeon houses of many styles for several centuries. Then the nest holes of one tier enlarge to the right hand, the tier above enlarges to the left; this plan of construction seems to be almost invariable in stone and brick buildings; in only one case I found the holes enlarge to both sides of the entrance.

At another Herefordshire preceptory of the Knights Hospitallers—Dinmore—the dovecote stood until about a century ago.

There is but one other instance existing in the county of the domed-over stone roof of castle building times, and this at a place formerly called Syfervest (there was a family of that name), but now Cowarne Court; the present roof is of the usual conical type, but the broken masonry inside where the springing of the arch commenced is unmistakable.

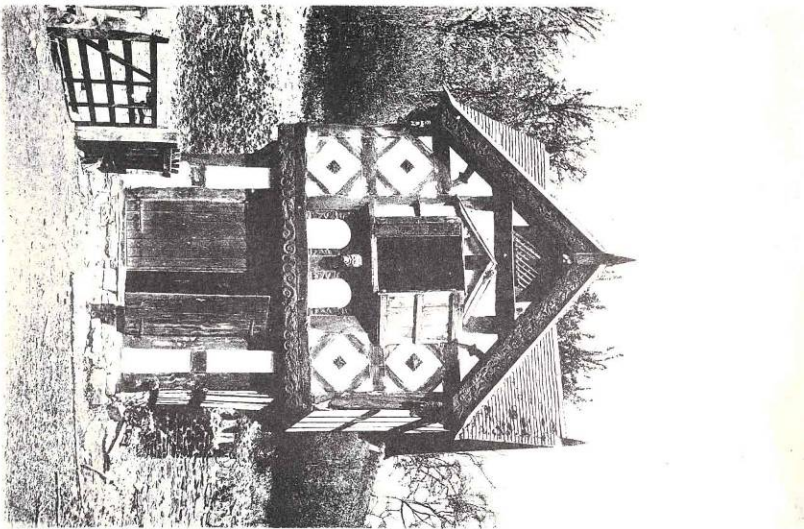
I shall now briefly glance at the examples which are to be found in that interesting peninsula of Gower, an English-speaking district in the heart of Wales, bristling with castles and ancient camps, and full of interest to the archaeologist. There, at three of the castles, viz.—Oyster-mouth, Penrice, and Oxwich—are still to be found dovecotes, slightly varied in type, but all circular, stone-built, and without wood-framed roof. Those at Oxwich and Oystermouth are partly demolished, but show signs of the domed roof. At Penrice the dovecote, which stands close outside the outer wall of the castle, is in perfect condition, and of rather unusual type. It is circular—as all early examples are—10 feet inside diameter, walls 4 feet thick, 20 feet high, gradually tapering to an aperture in the top of about 2 feet, and lined throughout with nest holes, each provided with a rough projecting stone as alighting-ledge.

Mr. Freeman (Arch. Camb. 1850) pronounces this castle to be "not older than Edwardian times."

It was my good fortune to identify a fourth, and perhaps more interesting dovecote on this coast. In the sea cliff, close to Port Eynon, a curious structure called

Culver Hole often attracts attention. It consists of a cave or chasm, closed in by means of a massive stone wall, 60 feet high, and 10 feet thick at the base, the wall being pierced with five windows. Inside, a rude stone stairway in the upper part gives access to a large number of pigeon holes lining the wall. Curiously enough, the fact that this structure was built as a pigeon house pure and simple, does not seem to have occurred to a writer in the *Archeologia*, vol. 29, who describes and sketches it, or to any other writer on the district. A rather difficult climb showed me that the holes - some hundreds in number - were nest holes of the true L shape, and by no possibility could they have been intended for any other purpose. The name too - Culver is an old English word for a dove - proves the matter. Local tradition says the place was built by a Mansel of Hen-y-llys, the same family as the builders of Oxwich Castle, which possesses a dovecote. But why should a dovecote be constructed in this lonely and unusual situation (high tides wash the floor of the cave). This was a puzzle until I remembered that the wild rock dove still inhabits this coast line, that in former times they were far more plentiful, that they nest in the numerous caves and clefts, and that all our domestic pigeons are direct descendants of, and will interbreed with these wild doves (*Columbia Livia*). Here, then, is the inevitable conclusion I arrived at; that in castle-building times, a dovecote was built in the cliff with the evident intention of enticing and perhaps partly domesticating the wild pigeons, With what success will probably be never known.

But to return to Herefordshire. This county possesses no examples or records of castle dovecotes; some of the circular stone ones, however - direct descendants of the Norman patterns - are interesting. At Court House, Richard's Castle is one with three dormer windows in the roof; the walls are three feet eleven inches thick, and it contains 630 nest holes (one of similar design occurs at Kyre Park, Worcestershire). This example, and in fact most of the circular ones, is fitted with a revolving ladder, a contrivance to enable the owner to reach all the nest holes. In the centre of the building an upright beam is fixed on pivots free to revolve; it carries two horizontal arms which in their turn carry an upright or sloping



ALFRED WATKINS, PHOTO.

BUTTAS, 1632.

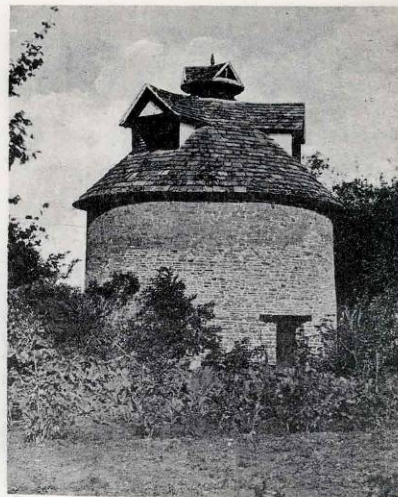


W. GRIGGS & SONS, COLLOTYPE.

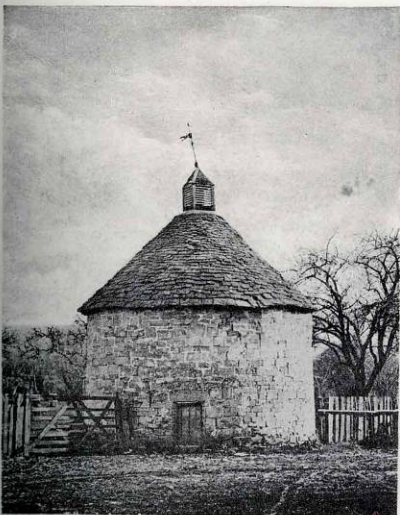
CULVER HOLE, GOWER.



GARWAY, 1326.



RICHARD'S CASTLE.



ALFRED WATKINS, PHOTO.

WIGMORE GRANGE,
DEMOLISHED 1888.



W. GRIGGS & SONS, COLLOTYPE.

PUTSON, HEREFORD,
DEMOLISHED 1889.

ladder, free to sweep round the inner circumference of the building. The revolving ladder was evidently not fitted to the earlier Norman buildings, and was only adopted when timber framed roofs took the place of stone domes for dovecotes. I see no reason, therefore, to suppose that the idea came from the French.

At Wigmore Grange—the Abbey was founded by Hugh de Mortimer in Stephen's reign - the round stone pigeon house was needlessly destroyed in 1888; it was built of dressed stones of uneven size, and among the stones when pulled down were some carved corbels; it was, therefore, probably built when the abbey was demolished at the Reformation. The vane was dated 172—but this was probably not the date of the building.

The dovecote which stood on the site of the ancient palace of the Bishops of Hereford, at Bosbury, was only pulled down in 1884, but I can hear of no description or drawing of it. It seems probable that it existed when Bishop Swinfield's Roll of Household Expenses was written in 1289, for this mentions "pigeons from the columbarium of the manor of Bosbury," and the Rev. John Webb describes it as like the one at Garway (1326).

All but one of the eleven Herefordshire circular pigeon houses are built of stone.

When an alteration took place in the structure of domestic buildings in the direction of timber framing instead of massive stone walls, the change spread to pigeon houses, and square buildings became the rule; for timber work does not lend itself to circular forms. The square shape is in the majority in Herefordshire, and forty-one still exist. Very picturesque some of them are, especially when the roof is four gabled, and the surmounting wooden lantern through which the pigeons enter reproduces the same form, as at the Moor Farm, Hereford. The date of this particular style is given at Luntley, 1675; curiously enough the house is dated one year later, and an outbarn, 1672. This is the second instance I have found in which a dovecote was built before the house; for at Bromtrees Hall the octagonal pigeon house is dated 1721, and on the leaden water pipe heads against the house 1723 is cast.

Most curious of all is the richly carved and ornamented

square timber built example at Buttas, or Butt House, King's Pyon, built by George and Elizabeth Karver, in 1632. Local tradition says that the middle chamber (there are three stories) was a falconry, and the structure of the building seems to bear this out. The date and initials are carved in raised letters in panels on the N. side.

In many of the square pigeon houses the structure is of timber (oak framing), and the walls are filled in with "wattle and daub," brick being often substituted at a later date. The nest holes are continuous tiers of boxes formed of oak strips and boards, the perpendicular divisions between the boxes are not at right angles to the wall, but set at a considerable angle, in order to give the same accommodation for the length of the sitting bird that the L shape of the nest holes in brick or stone affords.

A pigeon house of this type was pulled down in 1889 at Putson - a suburb of Hereford; the roof was single span. Pigeon houses were usually close to the house, and sometimes in the court yard "because the master of the family may keep in awe those who go in or come out" as the Sportsman's Dictionary (1725) remarks.

This delightful old book has a good deal to say on the matter, and as a precaution against the encroachments of rats, describes how tin plates should be fastened at a certain height at the outward angles of a square pigeon house, "so that when the rats come to them and cannot catch hold of them, they may fall upon the iron spikes which are usually fixed at the bottom, or the place you foresee they may fall."

At the square stone pigeon house at the Dairy Farm, Bollitree, these plates are fixed fifteen feet up. They are like the angle plates on a packing case. The iron spikes I have not seen. Rats have always been a source of danger to pigeons, and seem able to climb up the walls and gain entrance at the top. A number of Herefordshire dovecotes are provided with a projecting string course on the outside, which baffles the climbing rats.

Many of the later square pigeon houses are brick built, as the handsome example at Eardisland, where the walls run up outside the eaves, the roof being four gabled; the

vane on the four gabled lantern is in the shape of a fish, for a good trout stream - the Arrow - flows at the foot of the building.

The great diversity of vanes on these buildings is an interesting feature, and many of them are dated. The following are instances: Dragon, square shield with coat of arms, claw-shaped, double-headed eagle (arms of family), fox, and serpentine claw. The common weather cock only occurs in two instances, and the modern arrow I have not noticed at all. A ball on a pole is a frequent terminal to the lantern. At Foxley is an hexagonal pigeon house, the only example in the county.

Octagonal is the most modern shape for pigeon houses. although the earliest example - at Hellens- is dated 1641 in large stone letters on the brickwork, together with the initials f^w_m for Ffoulkes and Margaret Walwyn; curiously enough the vane bears another date, E W 1753. The octagonal pigeon houses, of which there are twenty-one instances in Herefordshire, are all - save one stone example- built of brick, and fitted again with the revolving ladder, which being quite useless in a square building was never found in it. The nest holes are, as in the circular buildings, formed in the solid substance of the wall. The wall thickness is 2 feet to 2 feet 2 inches, instead of the 3 feet 10 inches of the early examples of castle building times; in fact, I have found that the thickness of wall is a rough criterion of the age of a pigeon house.

Most pigeon houses of later days are fitted up with an inside trap in the apex of the roof, which is worked by means of a hanging cord, and enables the owner to catch the birds to replenish his larder. The large pigeon houses have always been studied from the food point of view, and members of the pigeon fancy never seem to use them. Even in the oldest English book on fancy pigeons - Moore's Columbarium, 1735 - it is the "loft" and not the "house" which is always referred to.

It was in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries that the bulk of existing pigeon houses seem to have been built, and the custom suddenly stopped in the beginning of the present century, for none appear to have been built since about 1810. "Mangel Wurzels killed them," says

Chancellor Ferguson, and there is no doubt that with the general introduction of the system of winter feeding cattle, and the consequent abundant supply of fresh meat during that season, the demand for pigeons as food was greatly limited.

In our forefathers' time, when salted meat was the staple for the winter, it is no wonder that the roomy pigeon house with accommodation for at least 500 couples was considered an indispensable adjunct to the larder at a country house.

HEREFORDSHIRE PIGEON HOUSES.

A Survey made in 1888-89 by ALFRED WATKINS, Hereford.

ROUND PIGEON HOUSES—STONE WALLS.

Locality	Inside diameter	Wall thickness	Nest holes	Lantern	Revolving ladder	Remarks
Cowarne Court	18'	3'-9"	To ground, ledges each alternate tier	None	None	Has evidently been domed over, prob- ably late Norman
Suifton (Old)			Upper loft only	Octagonal	No.	Vane—A double-headed eagle 1M 1764; structure (stone, now brick faced) much older
Richard's Castle (Court House) Garway	16' 17'-3"	3'-11" 3'-10"	630 To ground 666	3 gabled None.	Yes None	3 dormer windows in roof, only in- stance in county
Tarrington (Aldersend)	16'	2'-9"	576	Round	Upright one and trap at top	Dated 1326, in perfect order, top domed over, finest example in Eng- land (see Archaeologia, vol. 31, 1845)
Colwall (Barton Court)	15'	3'-1"	To ground	None	No	String course outside to baffle rats, irregular holes, bottle shape
Holme Lacy (Home Farm)	15'		Separate wooden ones in upper loft	Fine one with pro- jecting gallery and vane	A light one	No traces of arched roof, ledges to each alternate course of nest holes
Stoke Prior (Bury House)	13'-6"	3'	To ground	Square	No	Design quite different to others, probably taken from French ex- amples.
Netherwood (Bronyard)		2'-9"	To ground	Square	Yes	Rudely built, alighting ledges to each tier of holes
Stocktonbury	14'	2'-9"	To ground	Octagon	Yes	Four lancet windows in walls, vane E B 1759

ROUND PIGEON HOUSE—BRICK WALLS.

Locality	Inside diameter	Wall thickness	Nest Holes	Lantern	Revolving ladder	Remarks
Showle Court	17'	2'-2"	To ground	Round	None	Brick alighting ledges

SQUARE PIGEON HOUSES—STONE WALLS.

Locality	Outside size	Roof	Nest holes	Lantern	Vane	Remarks
Kings Caple Court (Rocks Place Much Marcle)	15'	Conical	Upper loft only	Square	Claw shape	Upper part built of brick, now used as a silo
Orcop (Pigeon House Farm)	12'	Single span	Upper loft	Demolished	None	Upper part built of brick M
Webton	14'	Single span	Upper loft	Square	None	Cellar underneath, inscription 1747
Kimbolton (Bach Farm)	16'	Four gables	850	Square	Gone	Two outside string courses. Three square headed windows. Date of old house 1631
Middleton (Nurton Court)	20', 2'-8" thick	Single span			Serpentine claw	
Middleton (Moor Abbey)	16'	4 gabled	Upper loft	Square	No	Only part of walls left; upper part was brick and timber
Eaton Bishop (Green Court)	14'	Demolished	To ground			
Wootton Leysters		Single span				
Alton Court (Ross)	16'	Conical	Upper loft	Square	No	Modern
Bollitree Castle	9'	Conical	Upper loft	Octagon	No	Plates of sheet iron are bent round outside angles of walls 18ft. up, to keep rats from climbing
Bollitree (Dairy Farm)	11'-9'	Conical	Upper loft	Rectangular	Plain flag	Three pointed lancet windows, probably not originally a pigeon house walls only 18" thick
Eccleswell Court	14'-14'	Conical	640 in wooden upper loft	Plain		

SQUARE PIGEON HOUSES—TIMBER FRAMED WALLS.

Locality.	Outside size.	Roof.	Nest holes.	Lantern.	Vane.	Remarks.
Butt house (King's Pyon)	11' by 11'	4 gabled	In loft only	None	None	Richly carved, middle chamber over- K hangs, inscription GE 1632
Byford Court	18' by 18"	Conical	In loft only	With lead OG Top	None	Same date evidently as Luntley (1673)
Hereford (Moor Farm)	12' 6" by 12' 6"	4 gabled	In loft	4 gabled	None	Dated 1673, barge boards carved
Luntly Court		4 gabled	To ground	4 gabled	A fox	
Lugwardine	11' 3" by 11' 3"	Conical	To ground	Square	None	Plaster coving under eaves
Pontrilas Court	17' by 17'	Conical	Upper loft	Square	Ball top	Timbers are notched to form a very neat ornament
Bidney	14' by 14'	Single span	Gone	Square	None	Lower part stone built
King's Pyon (White House)	14' 3" by 14' 3"	Conical	500 in upper loft	Square	None	In garden of house with nest holes in house front. Smallest one seen
Mansell Lacy	9' by 9'	4 gabled	Gone	None	None	On four posts, all wood built
Putley Court	10' by 10'	4 gabled	Gone, upper loft only	Octagon	Ball top	Lower part stone built, entrance for pigeons in gable
Barton Court (Pembroke)	11' by 11'	Single span	Upper loft	Square	None	A large stone raised on wood blocks in middle of floor
Lawton's Hope (Canon Pyon)	14' by 14'	Single span	To ground	Square	None	All wood framed and board said to have been moved bodily from Ber- rington
Ashton (Leominster)	18' by 20"	Single span hipped	Upper loft	Octagonal lead top	Ball top	

SQUARE PIGEON HOUSES—BRICK WALLS.

Locality	Outside size	Roof	Nest holes	Lantern	Vane	Remarks
Eardisland (Porch House)	20' by 20', 2' 6" thick	4 gabled	Upper loft	4 gabled	A fish	Walls run up outside gables, lower room has windows
Bosbury House (The Razes)	15' by 15"	Single span	Close to ground	Square	None	
Little Tarrington	15 by 15	Conical	Wooden in upper loft	Square	None	
The Haywood (near Hereford)	16 by 16	Conical	To ground	Square	Serpentine claw	Vane dated T.D. 1690, an outside string course against rats
Much Marcle (Vicarage)	16 by 16		Gone			Altered and added to stables
Madley (Fields Place)	20 by 20	Conical	Upper loft	Square	Yes	A granary below
Canon Bridge House	11 by 11	Conical	To ground	Square	A fox	Brick string course half way up
Little Dilwyn	13' 9" by 13' 9"	Conical	Upper loft	Square	A cock	Walls 1 ft. 10in.
Eardisley Park	20 by 20	Conical	Upper loft	Square	Yes: bears a de-faced coat of arms	
Hoarwithy (Mill)	12 by 12	Conical	Upper loft	Square	No	
Wormbridge Court	13 by 13	Conical	Upper loft	Square lead top	Ball top	A tall building
Stoke Prior (Great House)	17' 6" by 17' 6" 2 ft. walls	Conical	Upper loft	Square	No	Upper loft level with garden, nest holes pointed tops
Drayton (Brinfield?)	11 by 11	4 gabled	To ground	Square	No	Date about 1830
Bollingham (Eardisley)	9 by 9	Single span	Upper loft	None		Upper part of wood, entrance in gable
Ledbury (Mr. Bradulph's Lodge)	11 by 14		Upper loft wood boxes			Now converted into a cottage

HEXAGON PIGEON HOUSE—BRICK WALLS.

Locality	Outside size	Roof	Nest Holes	Lantern	Vane	Remarks
Foxley	22 ft. wide, 35 ft. high	Conical	200 in upper loft	Hexagon	No; ball on pole	Three chambers: lower one, ice house, entrance for pigeons under eaves. Only brick building remaining of the old mansion

OCTAGON PIGEON HOUSE—STONE WALLS.

Locality.	Sides.	Revolving ladder	Nest holes.	Lantern.	Vane.	Remarks.
Castle End (The Lea)	5-6	Remains of one in upper loft	180 upper story	Gone		Corners with dressed stone blocks, roof falling into bad repair

OCTAGON PIGEON HOUSES—BRICK WALLS.

Locality.	Sides.	Revolving ladder	Nest holes	Lantern	Vane	Remarks.
Whitwick (Cowane)	13-4					
Weston Beggard (Pigeon House Farm)	9-3	A complete diagonal one, 2 tiers Yes	432 to ground To ground	Octagon, bad repair Octagon	No No	Ice cellar beneath, walls 2ft. thick, Trap to close top. Panelled sides, with \diamond in blue brick
Dilwyn	9-10	Yes	To ground	None	Dragon	Entrances under gables
Wellington (Stock Farm)	7-9	Yes, Diagonal 2 tiers	To ground	Octagon	Hollow, copper ball and pole	A circular mass of brickwork, with nesting holes at base of ladder; plaster coving under eaves, \diamond on sides in blue brick
Credenhill Court	6-9	Yes	To ground	Square	Ball and pole	Same period as the following
Old War (Sugwas)	7-0	No	Upper loft	Octagon	Ball and pole	
Bodenham	8-8	Yes, to ground	627	Octagon	Yes No	Walls 2ft. 2in. thick dated 1717
Burghill Vicarage (The old Manor House)	22ft. to eaves			Octagon with lead domed top		
Burghill Court (the new Manor House)				Decorative with lead O G top		
Staunton Park	8-0		To ground			In deer park

OCTAGON PIGEON HOUSES—BRICK WALLS—(Continued)

Locality	Sides.	Revolving ladder	Nest holes	Lantern	Vane	Remarks
Bromtrees Hall (Bishops Froome)	7-0 2 ft. thick	one each side	To ground	Octagonal lead top	Claw	On vane E.S. 1721. Date on lead waterpipes' heads on the house is 1723
Canon Froome Court	7-4			Octagonal lead top	Yes, a cock	
Hermitage Farm, Burghill				Lately restored	No	3 storeys
Poston Lodge, Peterchurch	8-6	No	Upper loft	Plain	Ball on pole	Walls plastered outside
Tiberton Court	20 ft. dia.		To ground	Octagon	Ball on pole	
Eywood, Kingston	8-9 2 ft. thick	No	Originally to ground	Large octagon	Flag with date	Date in large plaster letters on walls
Newport House (Ameley)			None left upper story	Octagon		W
Hellens (Much Marcle)						F.M. 1641. Date on vane 1753
Bishopstone (Hill Court, Ross)	6-0		To ground	Square	No	E.W. A middle floor supported by post in centre with joists radiating

75 PIGEON HOUSES.

PIGEON LOFTS WITH LANTERNS PROJECTING ABOVE MAIN BUILDINGS.

Locality	Remarks
Marley Court	Vane a bow
Belmont Farm	Square stone with lantern and vane
The Moor, Hay	Over entrance to yard
Middlewood, Clifford	Over an aviary built of pillars from Hereford Old Town Hall
Mansell Lacy Court	Wooden loft over farm buildings with vane
Holmer Park	
Chilstone, Madley	

PIGEON HOUSES NOW PULLED DOWN.

Locality.	Remarks, and when demolished.
ROUND STONE.	
Wisteston Court Marden	Lined with brick, 1872
Old Court, Bosbury	Similar to one at Garway, mentioned in Swinfield MSS. of 1289, pulled down about 1884
Stoke Edith (Home Farm)	10 years
Pigeon House Farm, Ross	50 years
Amberley Court	About 1872
Derndale	
Tillington Court	
Dinmore Manor House (Knights Hospitallars)	A century ago
Wignmore Grange	1888, date in vane 172—Photographed 1878
Eardisland	
SQUARE TIMBER FRAMED.	
Litley	Conical roof 30 years
Livers Ocle	5 years
Preston Wynne	1887
Norton Canon	
Putson	16ft. square, single span roof, brick lantern like a chimney, wooden boxes to floor, photographed, 1889
Lower Hannish, Kimbolton	
Lower Bullingham Farm	30 years
Noakes Court	20 years
Stretford Court	20 years
Upper Wintercott	14 years
Upper Maund Common	
SQUARE STONE.	
Rowden Abbey	Inscribed "Anthony Rowden, Gent 16—."—30 years
Rudhall, Ross	15 years

PIGEON HOUSES NOW PULLED DOWN(—Continued.)

Locality.	Remarks, and when demolished.
Breinton, Pigeon House Farm Cleghonger Court Newtown Farm, Hereford	Converted into a Farm House 15 years 25 years
Letton Court, (Old House) Wormsley Grange Underwood, Ledbury Pigeon House Farm, Marstow Pigeon House Farm, Westhope Hill Bunshill Kenderchurch Pigeon House Farm, Letton	Near the rail is a tump, called "Pigeon House Tump."
The Upper Hyde, Leominster	

PIGEON HOUSES IN GOWER, ROUND—STONE WALLS.

Locality	Inside diameter	Wall thickness	Nest holes	Remarks
Oystermouth Castle	13'	2'—10"	About 14" deep, alighting ledges to each tier	Three parts demolished, signs of domed roof, height 8'—6" to string course
Penrice Castle	10'	4'—0"	Openings 7" by 8", rude alighting stones	About 20' high, rather conical in shape
Oxwich Castle "Culver Hole," Port Eynon	13'	3'—3" 10' at base, 2' at top	No alighting ledges Lining upper part of wall and inside of window openings, no alighting ledges	Roof and one third of walls demolished This is a cave in the sea cliff closed in by a massive wall 60' high, pierced with five windows