The burrows is a new-build earth sheltered house. It’s not often you get the opportunity to build a house from scratch for a client so committed to good design and to class leading sustainability. We’re planning for this to be the first Passivhaus in South Yorkshire; and we’re also aiming for AECB Gold standard which would be great.

The design is very simple, with a linear progression along the linear, hilltop site. All of the habitable rooms have good southerly orientation to make the most of winter passive solar gain, but the windows and eaves are designed so as it minimise summer overheating. This combined with thermal mass, super-insulated, breathable walls, triple glazed windows and the thick grassed roof will make for an incredibly comfortable and healthy house in which to live.

A simple pallet of local stone, timber windows and infill panels, and zinc clad entrance and eaves, MVHR.

Involvement: paul testa architecture is the project architect on the project

Despite being a new, isolated dwelling in the green belt, paul testa architecture achieved planning approval for the proposal at first attempt in September 2012.