

Architect: Nicolas Pople Architects Ltd
Nicolas Pople, Serena Evans & Muneeb Ali Khan
info@nicolaspople.com

Structural Engineer: Corbett + Tasker
Peter Corbett & Martyn Sheard
david@corbett-tasker.com

TOBIAS GREEN

East Grinstead

Contractor/ Developer: Douch Partners Ltd
toby@douchpartners.com

Planning Consultant: DMH Stallard
peterrainier@dmhstallard.com

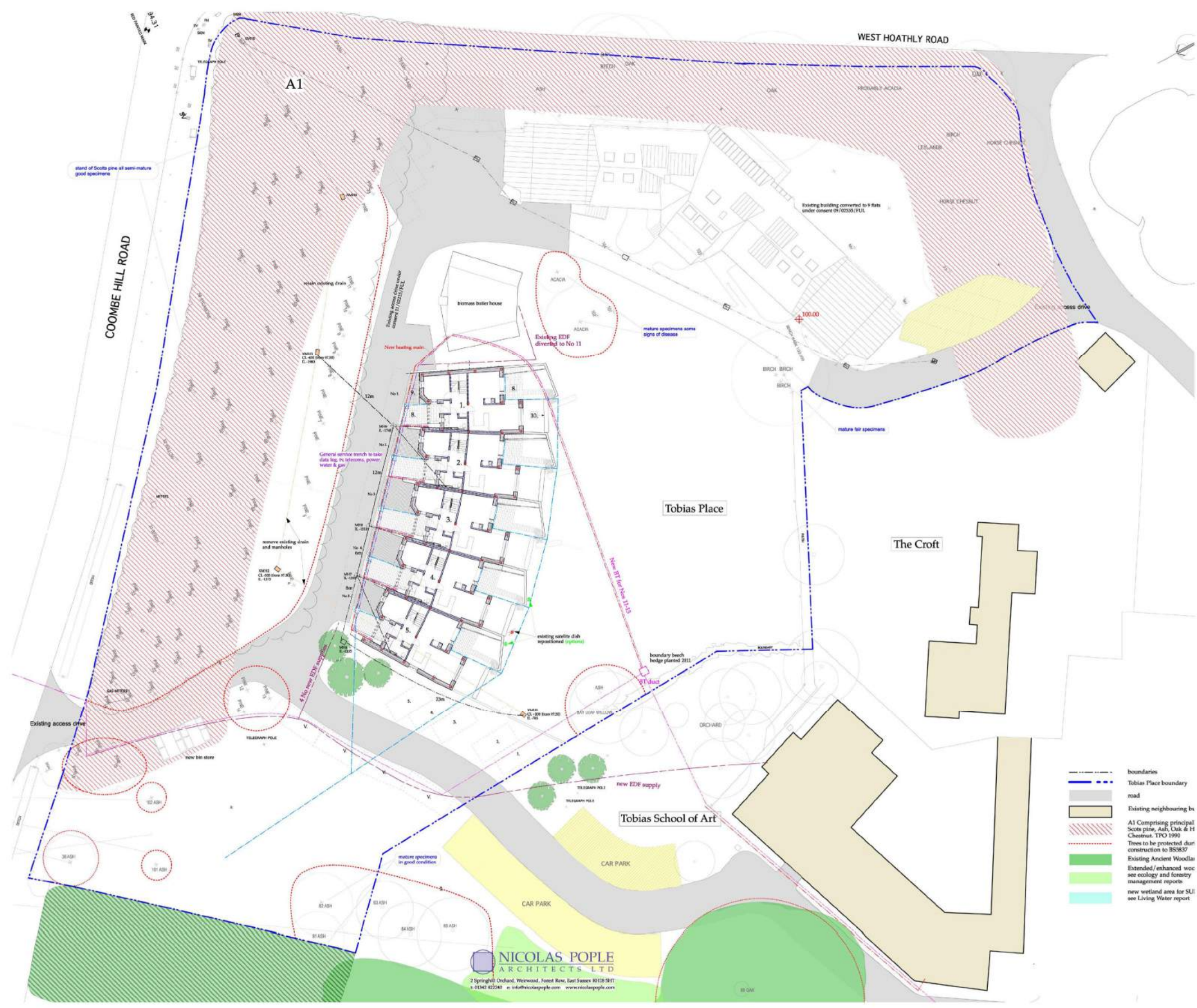
This project comprises a terrace of five new family houses as part of an established community with associated shared landscape, community facilities and biomass district heating. Set in an acre of expansive mature gardens with a perimeter of protected trees, the site was originally part of the Tobias School of Art, a privately funded institution that trains Arts Therapists who mainly go on to work for the NHS. The move to part-time courses over the past five or six years meant that the existing hostel became surplus to requirements and was converted into nine flats as Phase 1 of the development. This won the Mid Sussex District Council Small Residential Design/Sustainability Awards in 2015 and a Sussex Heritage Trust Award in 2013. The benefit to the School of Art were funds to develop new courses and maintain their studio building, which is the only example in the country of the work of Architect Erik Asmussen, a Dane, who's masterwork is the Rudolf Steiner seminar in Järna, Sweden.

Phase 2 expands the range of units available and completes the concept of a village green. The overall design is driven by ecological considerations and enhanced by the use of responsibly sourced materials and attention to detail in the finishes. Our sustainable approach takes into consideration long-term maintenance and running costs aiming to deliver a high quality living experience with low outgoings. The biomass boiler built to serve Phase 1 now serves both

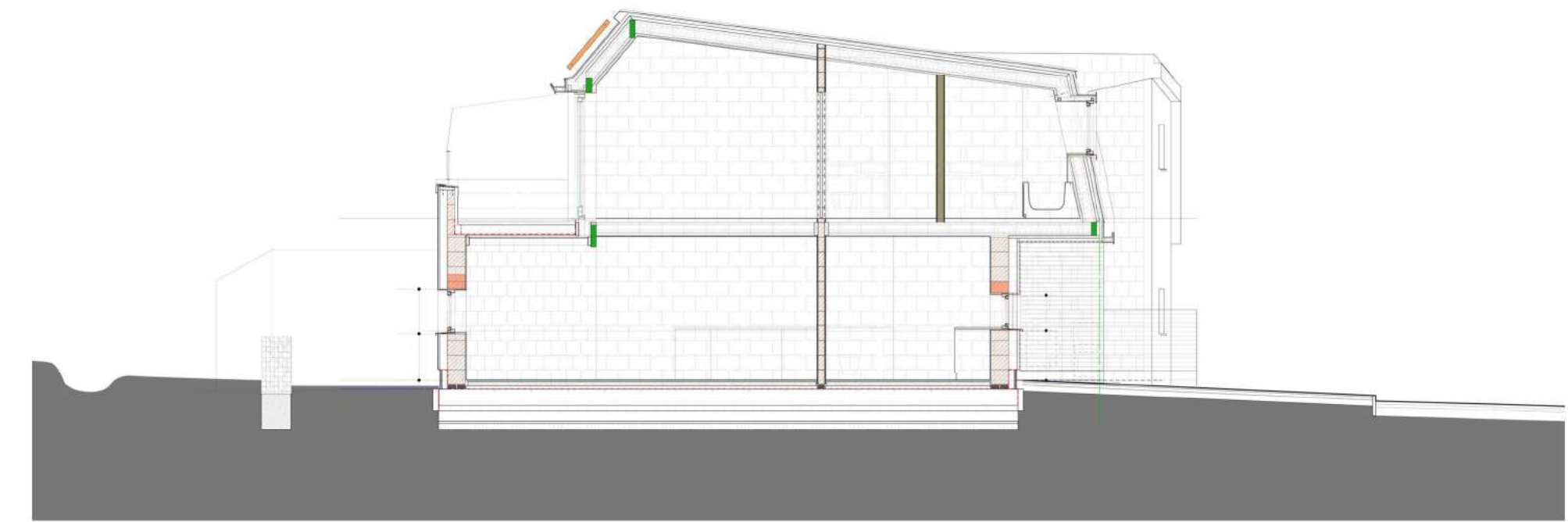
the new terrace of houses and the School of Art. Each of the five new houses has solar thermal panels facing south that provide domestic hot water. The construction of the walls employs 300mm Porotherm clay blocks with 140mm mineral wool insulation, giving a U-value of approximately 0.12W/m²k. The roofs are all quartz zinc, Asmussen's preferred roofing material and utilises Steico pre-insulated timber rafters with over rafter insulation for a full thermal break.

The compact plan of each house is designed to reduce the amount of circulation space and maximise natural light in all habitable rooms. At the centre of the house is a double-sided wood-burning stove, which not only serves the living room kitchen and dining, but also gives background heat to the two main bedrooms above. The living spaces open onto a small private courtyard garden and the master bedrooms all have south facing terraces. The study doubles up as a guest room and is designed to promote home working and facilitate semi-independent living for teenage children.

The concept of the crescent has historical precedent and in this instance came about naturally as a result of wishing to contain the open space between the screen of existing pine trees and the fronts of the new houses. To the rear this allows the terraces to open up the village green to maximum advantage and provide privacy between individual dwellings.



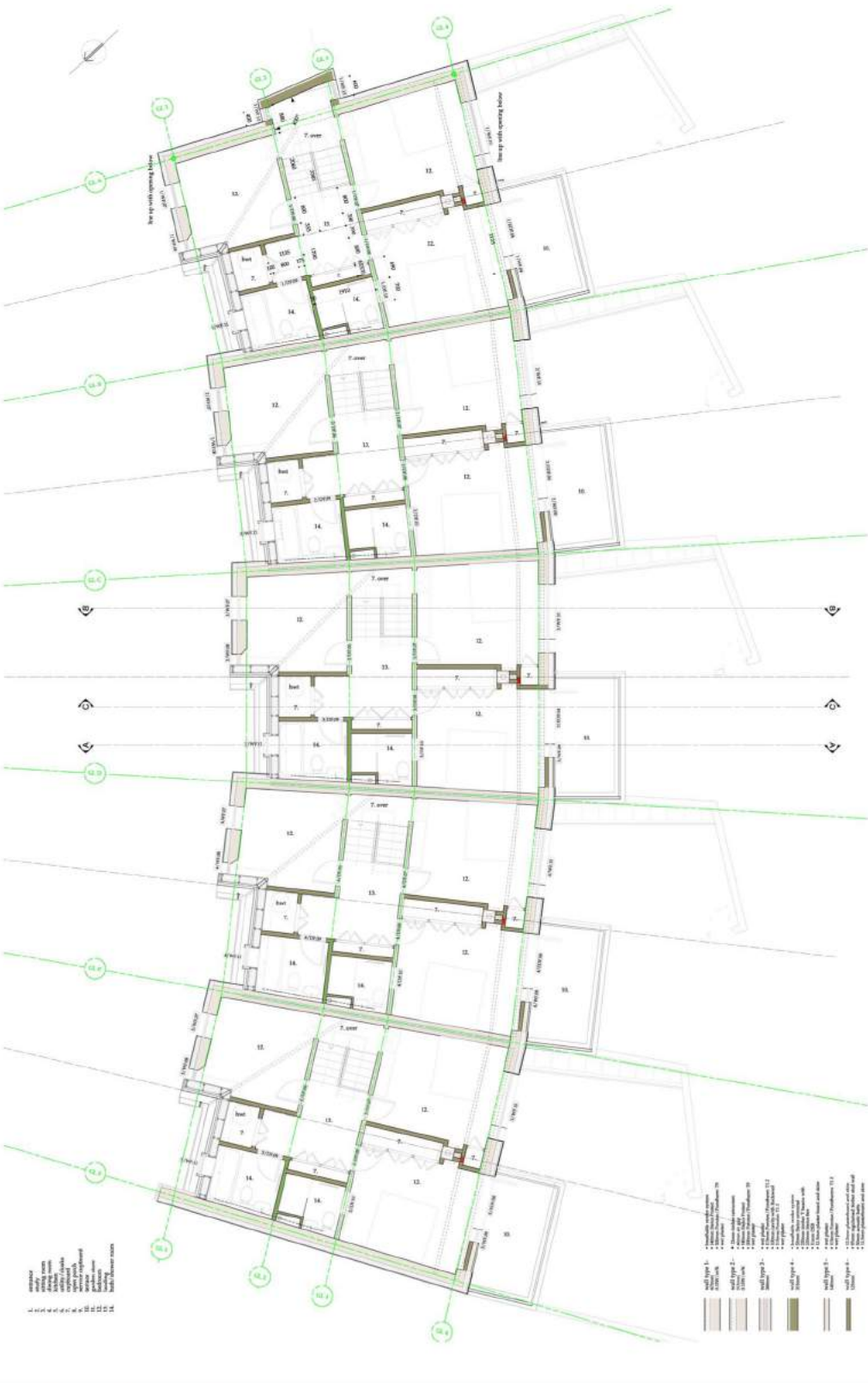
Site Plan



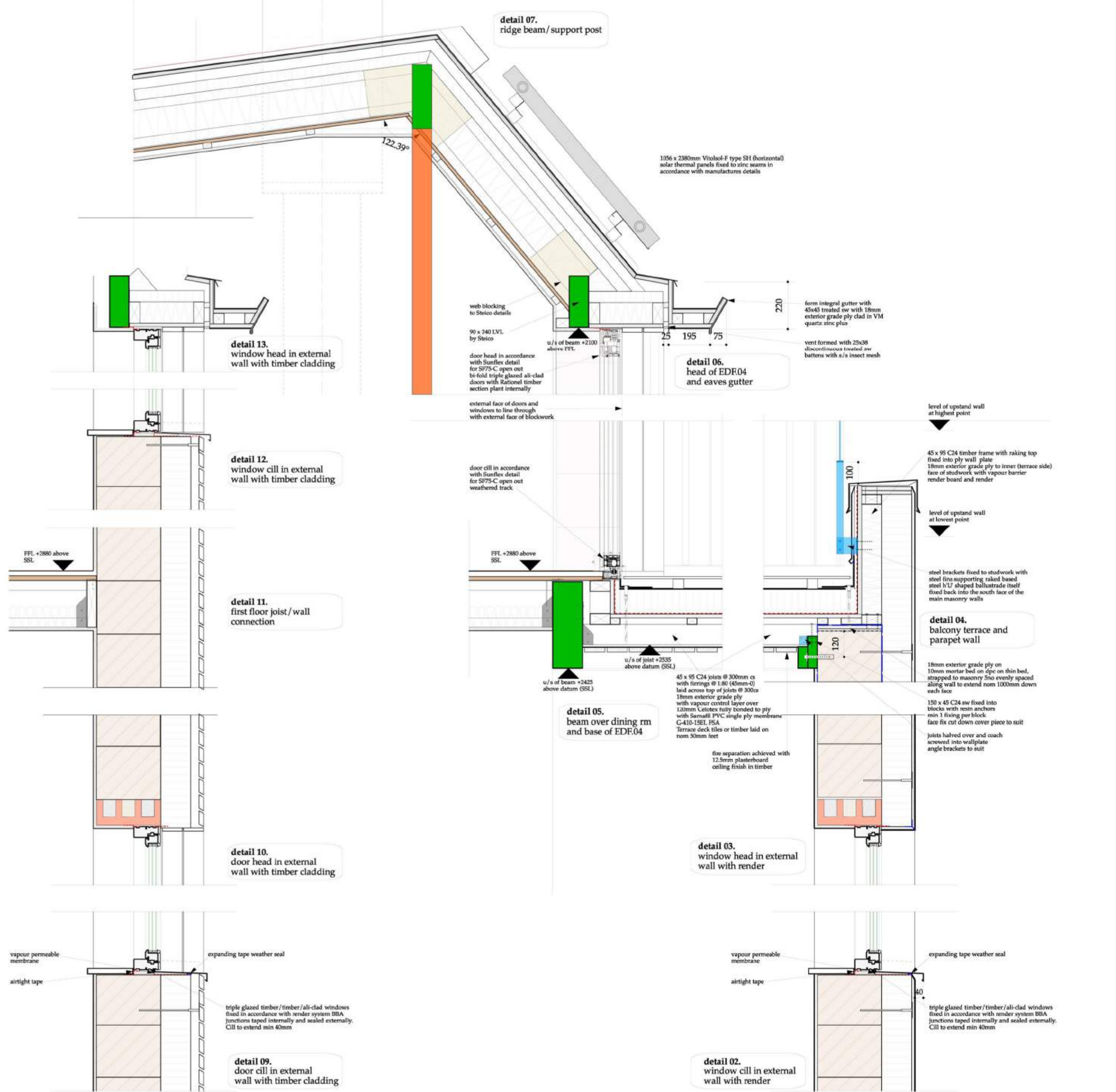
Cross Section



Ground Floor Plan



First Floor Plan



Constructional Section: showing major components

