



What We'll Be Exploring — Deepening Into Water, Contour & Slope Wisdom

As we prepare the slope for next week's "**Slope Conversation – Water Pathways & Contour Wisdom**," here is a glimpse into the practical learning and land-based insights we'll be diving into together with **Olmec from blockhill.co.nz**

This co-lab will unfold directly on the land, using the newly prepared slope as our living classroom. The following key features will guide our exploration:

Reading Water on Sloped Land

- Identifying natural flow paths, catchment points, and release lines
- Understanding where water wants to move — and why
- Observing early-summer moisture patterns

Contour Lines & Marking Key Levels

- Demonstration with Olmec's foldable A-frame level
- How to identify true contour and key-line opportunities
- Choosing safe and functional contour placements for future garden design

Building Retention & Growing Spaces

- Micro-terraces, soft edges and gentle interventions
- Creating spaces where water slows and sinks
- How these choices shape long-term planting success

Swales, Terraces & Water-Catchment Systems

- When to use (and not use) swales on alpine slopes
- How to integrate swales into a food-forest or mixed tree system
- Terracing options for steep land and variable soils

Harvesting & Redirecting Water

- Tanks, piping, pumps & practical setups
- Greywater and runoff strategies to support trees and perennial beds
- Creating resilience through distributed water systems

Tools, Techniques & On-the-Ground Practice

- Using simple tools to read land shape
- Field demonstrations: marking lines, assessing slope angles
- Practical decision-making: what to build first, what to leave, and why