LevelLock

A stable start for a newly planted tree.

A planting method that keeps the root ball on firm, undisturbed support while preparing the surrounding soil for root development and irrigation.

The problem to resolve

Settlement after planting can place the root ball and root flare below their intended level. Surface irrigation then has to travel through the soil above the root ball.

The planting principle

Retain a firm central support. Place the root ball at the correct finished level, then prepare the surrounding trench without disturbing that support.

Irrigation and backfill

Install the perforated irrigation pipe around the support, with an accessible inlet beside the stake. Backfill the surrounding trench with humus-rich soil. Coordinate surface and deep irrigation.

Design inputs

Tree species and root-ball dimensions; existing and finished ground levels; soil condition and drainage; underground services; irrigation supply; access for installation and maintenance.

Installation checks

Check the root flare against finished ground level, the stability of the central support and the pipe route. The pipe must not pass beneath the root ball. Record the completed installation before handover.

A principle for design coordination. Final dimensions, anchoring and irrigation must be resolved in the project specification.