THE MADE REAL BLUEPRINT / STEP 2

Four days a week in the same job, with Friday outdoors.

Daylight after work and one day a week outside. I keep the job, the flat, my sister nearby and the market.

Sam · 28 October 2026

WHAT I AM CHECKING

The change, and what it rests on

Most of what I need is already here. I do not yet have outdoor space of my own, so I will test whether sharing a neighbour's allotment meets that need. The test worked on six evenings out of eight. Moving would cost me the people I stay for.

WHAT IT DOES NOT GIVE ME

It does not give me land of my own. A corner of a neighbour's allotment does for now, and places on the allotment waiting list may become available in spring.

WHAT IS STILL UNKNOWN

What the lower pay does to my pension over ten years. Whether I keep it up in January.

MONEY AFTER THE CHANGE

€2,360 a month after the change, against €2,210 of costs. €150 left over, with the €6,600 emergency reserve untouched.

MY WEEK

About 16 hours a week now and 26 after the change. I plan to spend three of those 26 hours at the allotment.

WHAT I FOUND OUT

The rules, the people, and the test

RULES AT WORK OR HOME

The handbook allows the request after two years; I have nine. Two months' notice, in writing. HR is still checking what the lower pay does to my pension.

THE PEOPLE INVOLVED

My sister would like a week's notice before we spend a Friday together. My manager wants a month of it working first. My team wants to discuss any questions with me on Thursdays, before my day off.

WHAT MY TEST SHOWED

Six evenings out of eight, and the unpaid Friday spent outside. Nothing at work went wrong.

WHAT I CHOOSE NOW

Go further with this change

My next small step, within two weeks: Have an initial conversation with my manager by 7 November 2026.

I review what I learned: 28 December 2026. Step 3 checks this change with the five green lights and ends with the plan that goes with it.