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Two official nights

UK Parliament and English Heritage both describe the discovery of the plot. They do not use exactly the same hours, and this sheet does not force them into one story.

Parliament's page on the House of Commons Journal says: "On the evening of 4 November 1605 a royal official, Sir Thomas Knyvett, and Edward Doubleday found Guy Fawkes and his gunpowder." "Realising on the morning of 5 November that the Plot had been discovered, most of the conspirators fled." The Journal itself records that "one Johnson, servant to Mr Thomas Percye, was there apprehended," with 36 barrels in the vault under the House.

English Heritage gives a slightly different sequence: "Guy Fawkes was discovered on the 4th of November with a suspicious amount of firewood. The gunpowder was found in the early hours of the 5th, prompting Fawkes' arrest and subsequent torture." A third official sentence, on Parliament's people page, says he was caught red-handed in the basement storeroom on 5 November 1605.

Why tell all three?

Each wording is official in its own place. Reading them together is more honest than picking a single hour and quietly dropping the others.

A short quiz

1. According to the Journal page, when did Knyvett and Doubleday find Fawkes and his gunpowder?
2. What does English Heritage say was found on the 4th?
3. When does English Heritage say the gunpowder was found?

Answers. 1. On the evening of 4 November 1605. 2. A suspicious amount of firewood. 3. In the early hours of the 5th.

Wording from UK Parliament (House of Commons Journal; people) and English Heritage, checked 17 November 2026.
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