



This branch is closing – but we're still here to help

Our Houghton-le-Spring branch is closing
on Friday 2 July 2021.

Branch closure feedback, and alternative ways to bank

Sharing branch closure feedback

We're now nearing the closure of the Houghton-le-Spring branch of Barclays. Our first booklet explained why the branch is closing, and gave information on other banking services that we hope will be convenient for you.

We do understand that the decision to close a branch affects different communities in different ways, so we've spoken to people in your community to listen to their concerns. We wanted to find out how your community, and particular groups within it, could be affected when the branch closes, and what we could do to help people through the transition from using the branch with alternative ways to carry out their banking requirements.

There are still many ways to do your banking, including in person at another nearby branch, at your local Post Office or over the phone on **0345 7 345 345**². You can also go online to [barclays.co.uk/waystobank](https://www.barclays.co.uk/waystobank) to learn about your other options. Read more about this on page 6.

If you still have any questions or concerns about these changes, now or in the future, then please feel free to get in touch with us by:

Speaking to us in any of our nearby branches, or over the phone on **0345 7 345 345**².

Contacting Carol Cronin, your Market Manager for Northumberland & Durham.

Email: carol.cronin@barclays.com

We contacted the following groups:

MP:

Bridget Phillipson

Local council:

Sunderland City Council – Councillor Alex Scullion

Customers:

A number of customers who regularly use the branch

A petition in response to the closure containing 260 signatures was handed in during a meeting with the local council

We asked each of the groups 3 questions – here's what they said:

In your opinion, what's the biggest effect that this branch closing will have on your local community?

You said to us:

There were some concerns that the branch closure may have an impact on the way both businesses and personal customers can bank. There were also concerns that the closure will leave only one bank with an external cash machine in the local area.

We'd like to say:

We understand the concerns about the closure – and we'd like to reassure everyone that, before deciding to close, we looked very carefully at how the branch is used and many customers already use nearby branches and Online or Telephone Banking.

To keep a community focus and to ensure trade stays in the local area, everyday banking can be done at the Post Office in Newbottle Street in Houghton-le-Spring – it's open Monday to Friday between 9am and 3.30pm, and on Saturday between 9am and 12.30pm. We're helping our customers understand which transactions they can do there, how to bank from home or their business premises and offering them support through this transition.

There are cash machines nearby at Lloyds, Heron Foods and Quarry Service Station – all are free to use.

What's the biggest effect that this branch closing will have on customers of the branch?

You said to us:

There were concerns about customers who depend on the branch – for example, those who find it difficult to travel.

We'd like to say:

We're speaking individually to those customers most likely to be affected by the closure, and we're helping them feel confident with alternative ways to bank. This includes speaking to someone in person through Telephone Banking. We're making sure customers are familiar with using their local Post Office, too.

For anyone who's able to travel, the nearest branches are in Chester-le-Street and Washington. We understand it's not always convenient to travel, so we've been offering support from our branch's Digital Eagles, to help customers adapt to new ways of banking – so they don't need to use a branch as often.

What alternative ways to bank do you believe would help people adapt to the change?

You said to us:

The closure means customers will need help getting used to new banking methods, particularly those who are concerned about banking online and may prefer dealing with someone face to face.

We'd like to say:

We're encouraging customers to do their everyday banking in other ways, including Mobile and Online Banking – there's the Post Office and Telephone Banking for those who prefer to speak to someone.

We've run individual 'Tea and Teach' sessions to show customers other ways to bank, including how they can set up regular payments and how to use the Barclays app on their mobile phones. We've also shown customers how to order cards and PINs and we're helping everyone remain vigilant against fraud. Support is also available through our telephone and online services.

Other things that could help

Banking at the Post Office is available to both personal and business customers – where they can withdraw and pay in cash, and check their balances using a debit card and PIN.

Cheques can be deposited at the Post Office – customers will need a pre-printed paying-in slip, along with a cheque deposit envelope.

- Cheque deposit envelopes – we have supplies of envelopes in the Houghton-le-Spring branch, so please visit us before it closes to pick some up. Otherwise, call us on 0800 169 3091* and we'll pop some in the post
- Pre-printed paying-in slips – are at the back of a Barclays cheque book. They can also be ordered at any branch or by calling 0800 169 3091*

Please allow an extra 2 days for cheques deposited using a pre-printed paying-in slip to reach your Barclays accounts.

Customers can withdraw cash at any cash machine displaying the LINK sign³

*Lines are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Ways to bank

We want to make staying in control of your everyday banking as easy and convenient as possible. Over the years, we've introduced many ways you can bank without having to come into a branch.

The Barclays app

Transfer money between accounts and keep a check on your balances. If you need to, you can call us directly from the app too. The Barclays app is free to download from your app store¹.

Online Banking

Do all your everyday banking tasks from your home computer. We use the most advanced security systems to keep your details safe and our Online and Mobile Banking Guarantee protects you from fraud. To register, just call 0345 734 5345².

Telephone Banking

Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can hear your balance, check transactions, pay bills and transfer money. You can speak to an adviser about your banking needs too. To register, just call 0345 734 5345².

The Post Office

All customers can withdraw or pay in cash and check balances using their Barclays debit card and PIN at thousands of Post Office branches across the country.

All customers can also pay cheques into a Barclays account using a personalised paying-in slip and a cheque deposit envelope. You will need to allow two extra working days for cheques to reach your Barclays accounts.

Transaction charges for Business transactions will apply.

LINK cash machines

Withdraw cash, check your balance and request a receipt at any cash machine displaying the LINK sign³. You can also print off a mini statement at Barclays cash machines.



If you would like more information or help with any of the different ways you can bank with us, please speak to someone in branch or visit barclays.co.uk/ways-to-bank. If you're a business customer then visit barclays.co.uk/business-banking/ways-to-bank

Broadband - to check the availability and speeds in your area please visit checker.ofcom.org.uk/broadband-coverage. If you need any support, please speak to someone in branch.

Discover more at
barclays.co.uk/ways-to-bank

If you're a business customer visit
barclays.co.uk/business-banking/ways-to-bank

To get this in Braille, large print or audio, call **0800 400 100** (via Text Relay)
or visit barclays.co.uk/accessibleservices

Calls may be recorded for quality and training purposes.

¹ You need to be 16 or over to use the app. T&Cs apply.

² Calls to 03 numbers are charged at the same rate as calls to 01 & 02 landlines, and will count towards any inclusive minutes you may have covering calls to landline numbers. Call charges may differ, please check with your local provider.

³ Cash withdrawal fees may apply to some cash machines in the LINK network.

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