The name derives from the fact that the soil is sandy and in Anglo-Saxon times it was a forest (hurst). It is a small town of about 23,000 people, and is renowned for the Royal Military Academy, which moved there from Marlow in 1812. The railway didn't arrive until 1849.

There are only three real ale pubs within a reasonable walking distance from the station, and no Wetherspoons. However, for those seeking breakfast there is a cafe called The Old Mill on the High Street (marked with a red blob) which opens at 7am with full English ranging from £5.50 to £6.70.

- 1. The White Swan, 10 Swan Lane On the Upside and 7 mins walk from the station. It opens at 11am and food from a large menu is from 12 to 9pm. It is a Green King pub serving 6 real ales and has a garden. Leave at 12.15 for a 5 mins walk to:-
- 2. The Village Inn, 21 Yorktown Road opens at 12 noon food 12 to 3pm. (Menu changed every day) It has a garden and conservatory. 3 ever changing beers. Leave at 1pm for a 10 minute walk to:-
- 3. The Rose and Crown, 108 High Street opens at 12 noon food from large menu 12 to 3pm. 4 ales (incl. Otter & 6X) + 1 cider + 1 stout. It also boasts a garden. We can stay here until we've had enough, or return to one of the previously visited pubs. We'll play it by ear.