The most straightforward (and recommended) way of installing and running S-Grid and its dependencies is to use Miniconda - a lightweight distribution of Python and package management system. Miniconda allows you to install an appropriate version of Python and the required libraries without affecting other installed software.

To install and run using Miniconda, follow these steps:

1. Install Miniconda Win 32 version for python 2.7 (<https://conda.io/miniconda.html>, installer also supplied within the S-Grid distribution)
2. Install Miniconda; during install, uncheck box to add python from Miniconda in environments to avoid conflicts with other Python installs
3. Run command prompt as administrator and navigate to the Scripts folder in the Miniconda install folder (e.g. C:\Miniconda\Scripts)
4. Execute the following commands on the command prompt to install the required packages:
   1. conda install -c anaconda numpy
   2. conda install -c anaconda scipy
   3. conda install -c anaconda cloudpickle
   4. conda install -c conda-forge gdal
   5. conda install -c conda-forge shapely
5. To run any of the Python scripts for S-Grid, you must make sure the correct version of Python is being used. From a command prompt (should work without running as administrator), use e.g. C:\Miniconda\Python.exe buildModel.py

An alternative to Miniconda is to install Python 2.7 and the following libraries independently (but this may break existing installed software): numpy, scipy, shapely, gdal and gdal Python bindings. In particular there may be issues running 64 bit Python with these packages and S-Grid.