



Sidcot School

Agents Handbook



CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Working with agents	3
Sidcot at a glance	4
Key selling points	5
What type of student is right for Sidcot?	6
What matters?	6
What is Quaker school?	7
Facilities	8
Integration	8
Programmes offered	9
Results	9
Leavers' destinations	10
Boarding	11
Health Centre	11
Admissions	11 to 13
Guardianship	14
Payment arrangements	14
Fees	15
Extras	16
Life at Sidcot	17 / 18
Practical information	19
Things to do near Sidcot	20
Our location	20

INTRODUCTION

Sidcot School is committed to working with overseas agents. Partnership is important – we want to enjoy strong working relationships with our agents. Sidcot has engaged with international agents for many years so are very experienced. We understand that agents need a prompt, efficient service.

We offer very competitive commission rates in order to build trusted relationships with agents.

This Agents' Handbook is to give you key facts about Sidcot to help you explain the school to your clients. It is for your use only. You can give your clients copies of our International Prospectus and our Boarding Handbook.

WORKING WITH AGENTS

What we can offer you

- Efficient and friendly service.
- Excellent commission package.
- Brochures, photos, stories about students who have attended.
- Training for you and your staff via Skype or when we visit your offices.
- Our attendance at international fairs and exhibitions to meet potential students.
- Familiarisation trips for agents to visit Sidcot – we are so keen that you experience Sidcot for yourself we will pay for a night's accommodation while you are here.

What we expect from our agents

- To work closely with us to recruit students that are well suited to Sidcot who will do well academically and socially.
- To support parents through the admissions procedure – all documentation and visa requirements.
- To make the family aware of Sidcot's ethos and expectations of behaviour and conduct.
- To keep us informed of developments in your territory and staff changes in your agency.

SIDCOT AT A GLANCE

Gender:	Co-educational
Year founded:	1699
Faith:	As a Quaker school we welcome students and staff of all faiths or none. We are a tolerant community and respect all religions.
Age range:	3 to 18
Age range of boarders:	11 to 18
Total number of students:	600
Number of boarders:	150
Educational programmes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long term boarding from Year 7• Year 11 Pathway (one year GCSE programme)• Two year GCSE course• IB Diploma• A Levels• BTEC Sport
	One term and short stays dependent on availability
Outstanding reputation:	Well known for excelling in the Creative Arts, Maths and Science
Extras:	Equestrian Centre – boarders can bring their own horse or learn to ride with the school
Setting:	Rural but close to city life in Bristol
Nearest airport:	Bristol – 7 miles
Nearest railway station:	Bristol Temple Meads – 20 miles

KEY SELLING POINTS

- One of the oldest co-educational boarding schools in the UK.
- A traditional UK boarding school with superb modern facilities including a fabulous creative Arts Centre for Art, Drama and Music.
- We achieve excellent exam results – some of the best in the South West.
- We offer a truly UK boarding experience to international students as they are fully integrated into the life of the school.
- Sidcot is in the countryside so is peaceful and safe but is close to city life in Bristol, only 30 minutes from the school by car.
- Bristol is the shopping capital in the South West of England and has a rich maritime history.
- Good transport links – Bristol International Airport is a 10-minute taxi ride.
- We are a Quaker School and believe in strong values. Follow in the footsteps of Barack Obama and Bill Clinton who have sent their children to Quaker Schools.
- We welcome students of all faiths and none and within reason, make every effort to accommodate the requirements of different faiths. For example, we can arrange a taxi to attend a particular church or we can cater for faith related dietary requirements.
- We believe all students are equal and we want everyone to reach their full potential and live adventurously – making the most of opportunities offered.
- We offer over 100 extra-curricular activities like fencing, chess club and life drawing.
- We have a flourishing Equestrian Centre in the heart of the school.
- Food is very important at Sidcot. We have a modern dining room with a wide range of meals served by our outstanding catering team. We also have a coffee shop on campus where students can buy snacks (paninis, fruit pots, cereal bars etc.) and cappuccinos, hot chocolate, smoothies etc.

Younger boarders

- Boarding starts at age 11 – we provide extra care and nurturing in smaller, cosy boarding houses to help children, away from home often for the first time, to settle in quickly.

Two Year GCSE Course

- Students aged 14 will join Year 10 and will study up to eleven subjects at GCSE level. Doing the GCSEs in two years allows students to really settle in and develop their language as well as their friendships.

One Year GCSE Programme

- Year 11 Pathway offers a one-year intensive GCSE programme with higher and standard streams. This programme helps international students prepare for the Sixth Form and includes a unique Global Studies course that broadens understanding of UK culture and history and develops useful life skills.

Sixth Form

- We offer A Levels and the IB Diploma in the Sixth Form. We help students to choose the right option for them.
- Students do not have to wear uniform in the Sixth Form
- 96% of our student applicants go on to university, with 74% going to their first choice institution.

WHAT TYPE OF STUDENT IS RIGHT FOR SIDCOT?

Sidcot is for parents who are looking for a British school:

- with strong values where international diversity and a sharing of cultures is celebrated
- where all students are treated the same and international students are welcomed and integrated fully in the school community
- which encourages their son or daughter to work hard to get the best results
- that will encourage their child to take part in school life and try new things.
- which is a traditional boarding school with clear rules and expectations of behavior.
- With excellent facilities in the countryside but very close to a major UK city.

WHAT MATTERS?

We believe the following things are important. We want our young people to:

- be curious and ask questions
- believe they can make a difference in the world
- live life to the full and be adventurous
- surprise themselves and try new things
- value others and learn to consider others
- be themselves and not to have to pretend to be someone else

WHAT IS A QUAKER SCHOOL?

When you visit Sidcot you will immediately notice the atmosphere of friendly welcome. We believe that all students are equal, whatever their gender, race, culture, class ability or circumstances.

How will your child benefit from an education in a Quaker school?

- By being encouraged to work hard and make the most of opportunities, both inside and outside the classroom.
- By learning in an atmosphere of friendliness and openness, where relationships are based on trust and on the expectation of sensible, thoughtful behaviour.
- By having the opportunity to develop academically, personally, socially and spiritually.

Our students are encouraged to live adventurously. The strong Quaker concerns of internationalism, of active participation in global as well as local issues, lead to involvement with the community outside, environmental projects, expeditions abroad and charity events.

The extra-curricular programme in a Quaker School is the most varied amongst independent schools, as we believe education is about developing the whole person.

The Quaker Meetings

The whole school community meets together in a 'Morning Meeting' once a week. This is a time when all staff and pupils share a period of quiet reflection - a rare opportunity for peace in today's noisy and hectic world. The meeting helps students to learn the habit of self-reflection, and experience the power of shared silence. There is also a Quaker Meeting on a Sunday which boarders can attend if they wish to.

History

Originally established in 1699 as a Quaker's boys' school, Sidcot opened to girls in 1808 and is one of the oldest co-educational boarding schools in the UK.

Quaker video

To understand more about Quakers, you can watch a short video about the Quakers via the following link:

www.sidcot.org.uk/video/why-choose-a-quaker-school

FACILITIES

Sidcot's campus has a mixture of stunning historic buildings and some outstanding modern facilities. As well as superb sporting grounds, a 25m indoor swimming pool, an all-weather pitch, a dance studio, a gym and an Equestrian Centre, we have professional standard facilities for arts and media.

Our Art School includes studios for painting, sculpture, photography and a digital media suite. The Music School has a dedicated performance hall, practice rooms, recording studio and music technology suite.

The Drama Studio can be used for both theatre performances and film.

Sidcot School has five boarding houses, a Health Centre, dining room and a coffee shop (The Hub) on campus.

Sidcot's campus is very conveniently laid out so students do not have to walk far between lessons and to get to their boarding houses or sports facilities. Because of our rural location and our modern approach to security, students feel very safe.

INTEGRATION

The Sidcot School community is culturally diverse, with students from a variety of backgrounds creating a rich and vibrant social environment. Sidcot is home to 600 students mainly from the UK but also from around 30 countries across the world.

International students are fully integrated within the life of the school and we value their contribution to school life.

Your students will be going to a British school with an international and global outlook. This is one of the reasons why UK parents choose Sidcot – they want their children to grow up alongside students from all over the world.

PROGRAMMES OFFERED

We welcome international students on the following programmes:

Years 7 to 9 for students aged 11 to 13:

They will study a range of subjects and this is a good time to lay foundations for the future.

Years 10 & 11 for students aged 14 to 16:

Two year GCSEs.

Year 11 Pathway for students aged 15 plus or for those whose English is too weak for the Sixth Form:

One year GCSE programme. Our programme is streamed in the higher and standard streams depending on students' ability in Maths and English.

Sixth Form – Years 12 & 13 for students aged 16 plus:

A Levels or the IB Diploma.

Please see our website for more details about the programmes and the subjects we offer.

RESULTS 2017

A Levels:

A* to A: 42.5%

A* to C: 83.2%

IB average: 28.31

GCSE

A* to A: 37%

A* to B: 69%

A* to C: 91%

We are ambitious for all our students encouraging them to work hard. We have a broad range of abilities at Sidcot.

Strong academic students do exceptionally well but we also support weaker students to do the best that they can. We add value and have a full and varied extra curricular offering. We also help students to build their self-confidence and help them prepare for university.

We are very proud that over 74% of our students go to their first choice of university.

For international students we test their English level, as it is important they can access the classes.

LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS

University destinations for 2017 include:

Russell Group – 43%

University of Birmingham (4)
University of Cardiff (4)
University of Durham (3)
University of Edinburgh (1)
University of Exeter (6)
Imperial College London (2)
University of Liverpool (1)
University of Manchester (1)
University of Newcastle (1)
University of Southampton (1)
University College London (1)
University of Warwick (2)
University of York (1)

Other UK – 49%

Royal Holloway, University of London (1)
Loughborough University (1)
Reading University (1)
University of Bath (1)
University of the Arts London (1)
New College of Humanities (1)

For a full list of leavers by institution and course, please visit our website
www.sidcot.org.uk/how-we-learn/academic-success

BOARDING

Our aim in boarding is to ensure that each boarder experiences:

- A happy and stable 'family' environment.
- A structured routine within the demands of school work and the need for time to relax.
- The opportunity to take part in activities.
- Encouragement and support in meeting the requirements of Sidcot's curriculum.
- The support of House Staff with advice whenever needed.
- Freedom from bullying and any form of abuse.
- The opportunity to grow and develop as an independent and self-reliant person.
- Equal opportunities in ethnic, cultural, linguistic, religion, gender and disability matters.
- A healthy lifestyle, particularly with respect to alcohol and drug abuse, smoking and healthy eating.

HEALTH CENTRE

The School has a fully staffed Health Centre, which is open Monday to Friday from 08:00 to 20:00 and on Saturdays from 09:00 to 12:00. Boarders can receive day-to-day care from the nurses, who are all fully qualified. House Matrons support the nursing staff and all resident staff have received First Aid training. The Health Centre hosts doctor's surgeries on Mondays and Thursdays at lunchtimes at 13.15.

Consent to Treatment

If a boarder requires special medical treatment, every effort will be made to obtain the prior consent of the parent or guardian or UK guardian, or the student if they are aged 16 or over.

Should this be impossible in the time available, the Headmaster or his deputy, acting in loco parentis, are authorised to give consent to treatment (including anaesthetic or operation) as may be recommended by the school doctor.

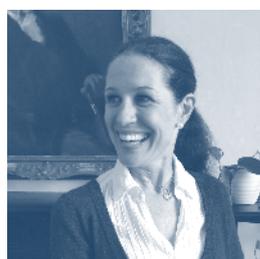
ADMISSIONS



Claire Rundle
Registrar
01934 845212
claire.rundle@sidcot.org.uk



Rachael Coates
Admissions Manager
01934 845236
rachael.coates@sidcot.org.uk



Ailsa Williams
Admissions Officer
01934 845335
ailsa.williams@sidcot.org.uk



Marina Jonas
Director of Marketing
and Admissions
01934 845297
marina.jonas@sidcot.org.uk

ADMISSIONS

See the Boarders' Handbook for other useful contacts including Houseparents.

Documents required at enquiry stage

When you send an enquiry to Sidcot, we need to have the following information about your student:

- Full name of student.
- Date of birth.
- Copies of latest school reports with English translation.
- Personal statement.
- English certificate if applicable.
- Copy of passport.
- What the student wants to study.
- Completed application form.

Testing

It is important that we assess students' ability to ensure that they are placed in the right programmes. We have recently improved our testing to speed up the process.

We test all students' English using the online Oxford Placement test. We will send you the login and we request that this is done under exam conditions. We appreciate your help with this.

We also like to interview all students and this can be done in person when the student visits or via Skype.

We only test mathematics in the Sixth Form if applicable.

Summary of testing:

- **Years 7–10 and Year 11 Pathway:** All students take an English and Maths test and will be interviewed. Tests will take place prior to arrival for class placement purposes.
- **Year 12:** All students will take an English test and will be interviewed. Maths will be tested if students are planning to do the following subjects: maths, accounting, chemistry, physics, or economics. All students taking IB will be tested in maths.

English entry requirements

- Year 7-8: minimum level A2
- Year 9-10: minimum level B1
- Year 11 Pathway: minimum level B1 & B2 for higher stream
- Year 12 A Level: minimum level B2
- Year 12 IB: minimum level B2/C1

Visits

We encourage students to visit and experience the atmosphere for themselves. We are happy to arrange a personal visit to Sidcot and to welcome your potential students to the school.

We recommend that visits should take place Monday to Friday in term time to experience the school when both day and boarding students are around.

The visit will involve an interview with the Headmaster, or one of his deputies and will include a tour of the campus and a boarding house.

ADMISSIONS

Offer documentation

Once the enquiry documents have been received and the student has been assessed, an offer is made by email. Along with the offer email will come an acceptance form, an invoice for the deposit, a medical card and a PDF of the Boarders' Handbook.

The acceptance form should be completed by the parents and returned to the school when a student accepts their place, along with the deposit payment and the completed medical card.

The Boarders' Handbook is sent to the student so they have full details of life as a boarder prior to the beginning of term.

Visas / CAS / BRP

If your student is from a non-EU market then we can provide visa support. Our visa support services are provided by The Taylor Partnership, a UK immigration law specialist (www.ttplaw.co.uk).

We are a Tier 4 sponsor with the UKVI so we can issue a CAS to support Tier 4 visa applications. We issue the CAS once the deposit has been paid and UK guardian details have been received. We always get you to check the details on the CAS and we send you the details of the CAS so you have the right information for the application form.

You can get the BRP (Biometric Resident's Permit) card delivered to Sidcot which is the best way. If not then we can help your student to pick up the BRP from the local Post Office.

Health Surcharge (IHS) – £150 fee

When you apply for your visa you will need to pay a fee of £150 in order that you can access the NHS service here in the UK.

Note: for non-EU students there is an additional £250 supplement per term to contribute towards visa costs and other administration requirements.

GUARDIANSHIP

It is a condition of entry that all students from overseas have a mature and responsible UK guardian. This may be a friend or relative in the UK over the age of 25 or a specialist guardian agency.

Guardians play an important part in the care of international students. A guardian is there to support in an emergency, to attend parents' meeting and report back and arrange transport at the beginning and end of terms. Please refer to our Guardian Policy.

Useful links

You will find that our website is full of detailed information. Here are some links that might be of particular use.

Admissions policy:

http://sidcot.org.uk/assets/dynamic/documents/3.1_Admissions_Policy_and_procedure.pdf

Term dates:

www.sidcot.org.uk/term-dates

Fee information:

www.sidcot.org.uk/admissions/fees

Child protection and other policies:

www.sidcot.org.uk/how-we-live/school-documents-and-policies

PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

When a student accepts a place with us they will need to pay the deposit. Fees are due termly before the start of each term. Invoices will be sent to the fee payer. If you require a copy then parents will need to indicate this on their application form.

The school fees can be paid by cheque or a bank transfer. Our bank details are:

Lloyds Bank

A/C Name	Sidcot School
Sort Code	30 91 84
A/C	00639248
IBAN	GB75LOYD30918400639248
Swift Code	LOYDGB2L

If a student wants to leave Sidcot they need to give a full term's notice. If not then a term's fees will be due. Please see the following link for our terms and conditions: <http://www.sidcot.org.uk/admissions/fees>

The deposit is returned when a student leaves the school once all the fees and extras have been paid.

FEES

Junior School

Nursery

Morning Session – 08:45 to 11:45	£22.10
Lunch for Nursery pupils	£2.70
Afternoon Session – 12:45 to 15:45	£22.10

	Termly fee	Annual fee	Direct debit ¹
Reception to Year 2	£2,620	£7,860	£786
Year 3 to Year 4	£3,250	£9,750	£975
Year 5 to Year 6	£3,910	£11,730	£1,173

Senior School

Day fees	Termly fee	Annual fee	Direct debit ¹
Year 7 to Year 9	£5,340	£16,020	£1,602
Year 10 to Year 11	£5,530	£16,590	£1,659

Boarding fees ²	Termly fee	Annual fee	Direct debit ¹
Year 7 to Year 9	£8,870	£26,610	£2,661
Year 10 to Year 11	£9,370	£28,110	£2,811

Sixth Form

Day fees	Termly fee	Annual fee	Direct debit ¹
Year 12 & Year 13	£5,880 (£5,530) ³	£17,640 (£16,590) ³	£1,764 (£1,659) ³

Boarding fees ²			
Year 12 & Year 13	£10,610 (£9,370) ³	£31,830 (£28,110) ³	£3,183 (£2,811) ³

Year 11 Pathway (Y11P) ²

Boarding Students	£11,890	£33,570	£3,357
-------------------	---------	---------	--------

You can pay fees on a monthly basis if you wish. Many parents find it helpful to spread the cost of fees by paying 10 monthly instalments by direct debit. You can also pay by debit or credit card.

- ¹ Direct debit paid in 10 monthly instalments.
- ² For Non-EU fees students is an additional £250 supplement per term to contribute towards visa costs and other administration requirements.
- ³ Loyalty Discount – Students who have taken the twoyear GCSE course at Sidcot will only pay the Year 10/11 rate.

Please contact feesenquires@sidcot.org.uk for further information. Direct Debit application deadline is 30 June.

EXTRAS

Music lessons

We can arrange music lessons for your students and there is a form they can complete for this. These are charged as extras on the bill.

English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Whichever programme your student is studying, they will get English support if it is needed. There will be an additional charge for this.

Students in the Sixth Form will have IELTS preparation as it is a requirement for their university application.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND DISCOUNTS

If you have an exceptional student you would like us to consider then please contact us with full details.

For more information on our scholarships, visit: www.sidcot.org.uk/admissions/scholarships-and-bursaries

LIFE AT SIDCOT

Food / menu

We love our food at Sidcot. Students and staff enjoy a wide variety of tastes and flavours from around the world. Our menus are varied and delicious, providing students with a high quality diet that is balanced and healthy and full of fresh local organic ingredients.

We hope you will encourage your students to try new things. For a sample menu see following link:

www.sidcot.org.uk/how-we-live/food

Sidcot also has a great coffee shop called the Hub on the school campus.

Uniform

Students in Years 7 to 11 including Year 11 Pathway wear school uniform and sports uniform. During the first week of term (or during Academic Summer if students attend this programme), we will help them to purchase their uniform. Please see website for full details – www.sidcot.org.uk/uniform

Sixth Form and clothing

One of the privileges of being a Sixth Form student at Sidcot School is that students are not required to wear a school uniform and they can wear their own clothes. However, they will need to wear sports uniform (which can be ordered online) and professional formal dress on Mondays and for some school events.

Careers advice and university preparation

Helping students prepare for life after school is a priority at Sidcot. We have a full time careers advisor who works with Senior School students to support long term choices and decision making. All students have access to impartial caeers and educational guidance and the latest resources. External speakers are also regularly invited to offer students the benefit of their experience and extensive UCAS support is provided to students applying to both UK and overseas universities. Members of the school community are invited to join Sidcotians Connect - a networking database that enables users to seek mentoring, work placements and internships.



LIFE AT SIDCOT

We help students with every aspect of their education to help them follow their chosen pathway whether this is Oxbridge preparation, work experience, UCAS, writing their personal statements or applying to a university in a different country.

Students at Sidcot are encouraged to be ambitious and adventurous. When they leave us we want them to feel they have the confidence to choose what is right for them in life.

Communication with parents

We make every effort to keep parents and agents up to date with useful dates and information as well as news of what is happening at school. We send parents weekly newsletters and updates to keep them well informed of all that is happening in the school.

Parent Portal

The school has an intranet which enables students and staff to share information and interact with each other. It is a “live” site and is constantly changing and being updated with new material. Parents access the intranet via the Parent Portal to see their child’s timetable, attendance record, and details about their homework. Parents can access the portal via the following link: <https://intranet.sidcot.org.uk>

Letters / reports specific to the student’s family

Parents will receive letters and school reports via email. Grade reports are sent five times a year and a full report once a year so parents can keep close to their child’s effort and achievement.

How parents communicate with us

Parents may have questions for teachers, house staff or tutors and they can email a member of staff directly. To do this, they should use the following formula for email addresses: `firstname.lastname@sidcot.org.uk`

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Location and getting to Sidcot

Sidcot is in the South West of England only 30 minutes from the city of Bristol and one hour from Bath. On the edge of the village of Winscombe, Sidcot is situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty. The coast at Weston-super-Mare is 20 minutes away.

Winscombe

Winscombe is a small village that is a 10-minute walk from Sidcot. It has a lively high street with a wide variety of local shops and some take away restaurants that our students enjoy.

Weston-super-Mare

Weston-super-Mare is a 15 to 20 minute taxi ride from Sidcot. It is on the coast and has a good shopping centre. Boarders can go here at the weekends.

Bristol

Bristol is a 30-minute taxi ride from Sidcot. It is a great city with a lot of cultural things to enjoy. Cabot Circus and The Mall at Cribbs Causeway are both shopping outlets that are very popular with our students.

By air

Bristol International Airport is only 10 to 15 minutes from Sidcot making travel to European airports easy with airlines such as Air France, EasyJet, Flybe, KLM and Ryanair. London Heathrow is around two hours from Sidcot and taxi transport can be arranged to pick up and drop off at Heathrow.

By rail

Rail links to London are excellent as Sidcot is only 30 minutes from Bristol Temple Meads Station.

Taxis (local to Sidcot)

BBS Taxis

Tel: +44 (0) 7770 837 560

Places to stay while you visit

The hotels that are a convenient distance from the school are:

- **Woodborough Inn, Sandford Road**
Winscombe, North Somerset, BS25 1HD
+44 (0) 1934 844 167
www.woodborough-inn.co.uk
- **Premier Inn, A38**
Bridgwater Road (A38), Sidcot, BS25 1NN
+44 (0) 1934 842 271
www.premierinn.com/en/hotel/BRISID/bristol-sidcot-a38
- **Lyncombe Lodge**
Lyncombe Drive, Churchill, BS25 5PQ,
+44 (0) 1934 854 800
www.lyncombelodge.co.uk
- **DoubleTree by Hilton**
Cadbury House, Frost Hill, Congresbury,
Bristol, BS49 5AD
+44 (0) 1934 834 343
www.cadburyhotelbristol.co.uk

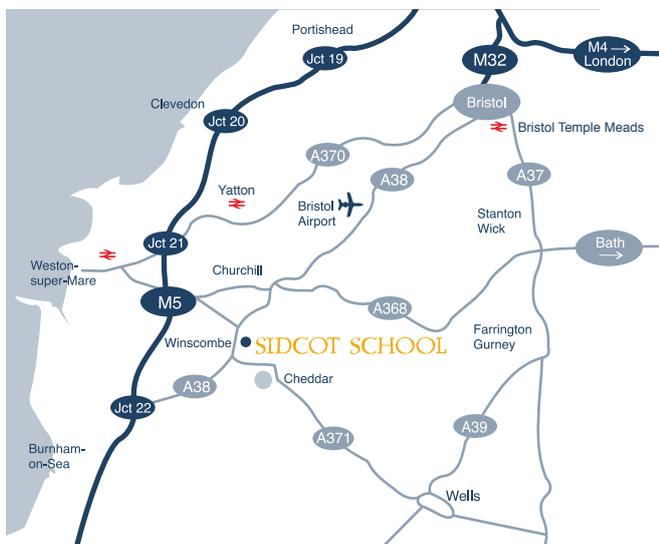
Places to visit near Sidcot

Sidcot School is set in a stunning location with a rich and varied landscape ranging from coastal scenery, the famous Mendip Hills and the green and luscious Somerset Levels. The historic City of Wells and the beautiful cities of Bristol and Bath (UNESCO World Heritage City) are close by and offer theatres, museums and other cultural venues.

THINGS TO DO NEAR SIDCOT

- Somerset Tourist Board Wells: www.visitsomerset
- Wells Cathedral: www.wellssomerset.com
www.wellscathedral.org.uk
- Bath: www.visitbath.co.uk
- Bristol: www.visitbristol.co.uk
- Cheddar Gorge: www.cheddargorge.co.uk
- Wookey Hole: www.wookey.co.uk
- Glastonbury: www.glastonbury.co.uk
- Clarks Village: www.clarksvillage.co.uk
- The Mall, Cribbs Causeway: www.mallcribbs.com
- Cabot Circus shopping centre: www.cabotcircus.com

OUR LOCATION



Oakridge Lane, Winscombe, North Somerset, BS25 1PD
 +44 (0)1934 843102 | info@sidcot.org.uk | www.sidcot.org.uk

