

**Nicole Mills, 41**  
**GBR**

It will be a first Defender Burghley and five-star debut for British rider Nicole Mills (41) and her ride Fearless W.

Nicole and “Fred” finished third in the CCI4\*-L at Kilguilkey House in Ireland in June 2023 and have a number of CCI4\*-L and CCI4\*-S completions to their name.

Nicole is one of the most local riders to Burghley. Her yard, from which she breeds and produces horses and trains riders, is based three miles from the event. She went to school in Stamford for the entirety of her education and was a member of the Burghley branch of the Pony Club.

Nicole has many fond memories of Burghley, including Pony Club camps in the park and grooming for Julia Dungworth (née Crowson) when she competed Malaga at the event in 2002.

Nicole says: “I’ve been eventing for 24 years and it’s just quite incredible to actually get qualified.”

**Fearless W** (Arko III-Achilla (Bollvorm’s Libero H)), owned by Nicole Mills, is a Dutch-bred KWPN-registered 14-year-old gelding, who was bred by BJM Wezenberg. Nicole purchased “Fred” as a five-year-old. Nicole says although Fred was “difficult to steer” when she tried him, she bought him on the spot and took him home without a pre-purchase vetting. She says he was “incredibly sharp” as a young horse but he is “very intelligent, beautiful and the most lovely person”. They have a number of four-star completions to their name, most notably finishing third in the CCI4\*-L at Kilguilkey House in Ireland in June 2023.