

July 2022

Section 32 was covered in lots of grasses and bracken making it very difficult to get to each individual tree and carry out unestablished checks. This is where we check each highlighted tree in the area and carry out the necessary tasks. This could involve pruning, mulching, re-caging or re-staking. We hired in a mower with a flail deck, which allows cutting of thicker material. This meant we were able to about section 32, to check all the unestablished trees.

Dead tree removals are logged on our data base and displayed on a map of the Pinetum to show where they are located. Alex, one of the district forest craftspeople and I, spent a day removing several dead/dying trees. One of the trees a *Cedrus Atlantic* 'Glauca pendula', nearly 100 years old, had to be removed due to *Sirococcus tsugae*. This was the first finding of this type of disease, which attacks cedars and hemlocks.



As an employee of Forestry England, one of the benefits are, you get 3 days of paid volunteer leave each year. I chose to go to the National Botanic Garden of Wales for my volunteering days, to get involve with wildflower harvesting. Wildflower harvesting is a new concept at the botanic gardens but seems to be a great money maker. The main flower collected being yellow rattle. Yellow rattle is crucial for a wildflower meadow to thrive. This is because it discourages growth of coarse and vigorous grasses, allowing space for other wildflowers to sow there

seeds. Unfortunately, I fell ill so my time there was shortened, but the time I did spend with the team was very interesting and a lot of fun. I will for sure go back sometime soon and definitely recommend visiting!