

Visit to University of York to practice DNA profiling techniques

23rd September 2015

The Biology Department at University of York is one of the leading UK centres of research and teaching in the field of DNA profiling. This is science and technology at the “cutting edge” of medicine and crime detection so our members were fortunate to be able to visit the facility.

Explanations about the discovery and development of DNA profiling were interspersed with a practical exercise that saw members use the laboratory facilities to extract DNA samples and match these to crime scene samples and identify the chief suspect.

Before departing, we were shown the research laboratories where work is underway to understand how changes to DNA can help improve crop yields. Researchers are discovering the unique genes that allow the opium poppy to make codeine and morphine, opening the door to alternate methods of producing these effective painkillers either by manufacturing them in a lab or controlling the production of these compounds in the plant.





