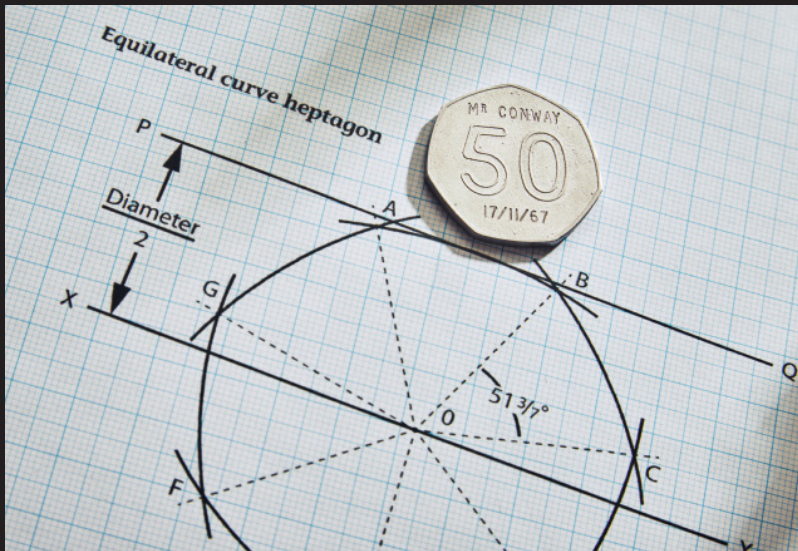


## 50p Fact file

Most coins are circular in shape but coins must not be too big or too small as this can make them difficult to use. Because of this there is only a small range of sizes that coins can be. To help easily tell all our coins apart, some are different shapes.



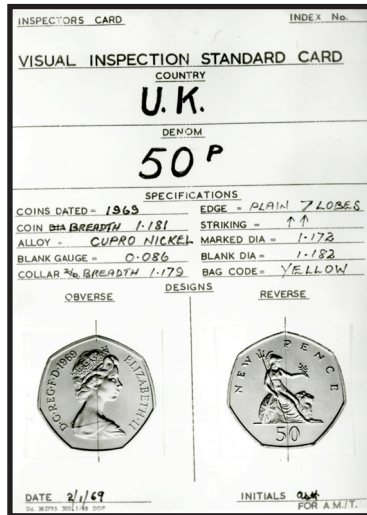
The 50p coin is in the shape of an Equilateral Curve Heptagon. It has seven sides but if you look carefully you can see that the sides of the shape are slightly curved, not flat like you might expect. This means the coin will roll which it would not do if the sides were flat.

Britain was the first country in the world to use this shape for coins.

We need our coins to roll so they won't get stuck when being used in vending machines, ticket machines and parking meters.

Before the newly designed 50p coins were approved, samples were sent out for testing by the vending industry to make sure they would work properly in machines.





This is a visual inspection card used in the Royal Mint's factory in 1969 to help with the production of 50p coins.

Staff would check the coins against the inspection card to make sure they were all being made to the correct specifications.

Although now the 50p coin is seen as an iconic design that is much celebrated, when it was first introduced many people were unsure about it and some really didn't like it.

The Decimal Currency Board, the group set up by the government of the time to oversee the introduction of the new currency, sent out lots of information to help prepare the country for the changes ahead.



The Royal Mint has made many commemorative 50 pence coins commemorating and celebrating public figures, important discoveries and historical events. Here are a few;



250th anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Botanic Gardens



Queen Elizabeth II memorial 50p



Commemorating the life and work of Beatrix Potter