How our coins are made – solutions

First, the coin designer prepares detailed pencil sketches of the design concept, which are sent to the appropriate Minister for approval.

From the pencil sketches, a large model of the coin is sculpted, using modelling clay, on a sheet of glass.

A steel ring is placed around the model and filled with plaster to form a reversed (negative) cast of the design.

The reversed cast model is used to make a second positive plaster cast model. The designer uses this model to refine the design.

A 3D digital scanner transfers the design to a computer, then a computer-controlled engraving machine cuts the design directly into tool steel.

Coin blanks are cut from sheet metal and sent to the Mint where Titan (a robot) tips them onto a conveyor belt to the coin presses.

The design is ‘pressed’ into the reverse (tails) of the blank coin at the same time as the portrait of the current monarch is pressed into the obverse (heads).

Finally, the finished coins are packed and sent to banks around the country.