

1880

6th – 11th September
Milan Conference. The
infamous Milan Conference
in 1880 ruled that deaf people
across the world should be
taught using only the oral
method banning sign language
for the deaf from schools.

1890

British Deaf Association
founded by Francis Maginn
to protect British Sign
Language and the Deaf
community following the
Milan Conference. The
British Deaf Association
aimed to protect and
preserve British Sign
Language and the Deaf
community.

1960

American Sign Language
is recognised as a language
in its own right setting the
trend for the rest of the
world to follow.

1976

Department for Health
and Social Security
grant the British Deaf
Association £133,000 for
a Communication Skills
Project. The project focuses
on teaching people British
Sign Language as there was
much concern that British
Sign Language was in
decline.

1980

After the success of the
Communication Skills
Project, an organisation
called the Council for
the Advancement of
Communication with Deaf
People (CACDP) is formed.
CACDP establish a register
for BSL interpreters and
CACDP push for more
people to learn BSL.

1988

17th June.
The European Parliament
vote unanimously in favour
of a resolution that asks all
member states to recognise
their national sign language
as an official language.
However it takes the UK 15
years to acknowledge the
request.

2001

1st October.
CACDP launch accredited
qualifications in British
Sign Language encouraging
hearing people to learn
BSL and continue its
development as a language.

2003

18th March.
British Sign Language is
recognised in the UK as a
language in its own right.
However it isn't recognised
as an official language of
the UK.

2004

30th March.
Northern Ireland gives
official recognition to British
Sign Language and Irish
Sign Language.

2009

5th January.
CACDP changes its
name to Signature in an
effort to further push
BSL qualifications and
encourage more people
to become interpreters or
communication support
workers.



read my lips