Italian arrival and settlement in the UK: a timeline

1820s  Beginnings of Italian economic migration to UK
Craftsmen from the north of Italy, e.g. barometer and thermometer makers
Migrants from Parma and Lucca mountains begin to arrive in London as street entertainers and statuette maker-sellers

1860s  Mass emigration from Italy begins after unification 1861
Large inflow of poor Italians to London from Parma/Lucca mountain areas
Street entertainers and statuette maker-sellers begin to move north and west from London

1870s  Migrants arrive in London from the Ciociaria area between Rome and Naples (Frosinone) and also begin to spread out across the country
1870s  Italian communities in Manchester, Liverpool, Sheffield and take root
1880s  Street musicians and other itinerants begin to sell street food
1880s  Italian communities in Scotland and Wales take root
1890s  Progression to fixed premises; shops and other businesses linked to foods
1900s  Immigration grows, catering niche continues to expand
1910s  Italians spread out from cities around the country to smaller towns
1914-18  First World War. Britain and Italy allies (from 1915)
1920s  Immigration to UK and emigration from Italy restricted
1930s  Growth of fascism
1939-45  Second World War. Britain and Italy enemies (from 1940)
1950s  Mass immigration from the deep south of Italy by bulk recruitment
Italians create communities in England where few Italians had previously lived
Historic chains of migration also reactivated
1960s  Immigration continues on personal basis through work permit scheme
       Sicilians become the largest regional group to arrive

1970s  More people return to Italy than arrive

1973  Britain joins the EEC
       Students begin to arrive in Britain from Italy

1980s  Highly qualified professional migrants begin to arrive, mainly to London

1990s  Immigration of young Italian graduates begins

2000s  Increase in number of professionals and young educated Italians arriving
       Around half located in London
       Young migrants without professional experience gravitate to catering sector

2016  Italian community in the London Italian consular jurisdiction becomes second largest
       Italian Community in the world after Buenos Aires, Argentina
       Britain decides to leave the European Union

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