

2018

2019

2020

2021

2022

Changes to Time Limited Licences – continues

Revocation of unused licences – continues

Changes to highest priority licences – continues

Trial approach to improving access to water commences in four catchments

January – Licence application process for previously exempt abstractions opens

Jan 2018 – Start testing digital abstraction licences

Water companies investigate risks from licences at catchment scale – continues

Environment Agency trial approaches at catchment scale to improve access to water in four catchments and to make environmental improvements in six

Defra consult on move to Environmental Permitting Regulations

By end 2019 – Majority of licences available digitally and approach to submitting records online is improved

31 December 2019 – Applications close for previously exempt abstractions

Environment Agency complete restoring sustainable abstraction programme

Environment Agency publish four updated abstraction licensing strategies from trial catchments

Environment Agency continue to develop environmental solutions in six initial catchments

Licence determinations for previously exempt abstractions begin

Application for abstraction permits available online alongside tailored information on flows and levels

April 2020 – abstraction licences become environmental permits

Environment Agency publish a further six updated licensing strategies – based on catchment engagement

Environment Agency shifts focus to different catchments and improves approach based on experience

Environment Agency reports to government on progress made on improving access to water and addressing environmental issues

Environment Agency continue to publish updated abstraction licensing strategies to support 3rd cycle of river basin planning. This will start with the highest priority catchments. All strategies to be updated by 2027

By 31 December – all previously exempt abstractions will be permitted

Environment

Catchment

Service

Water abstraction plan: timeline