



A view of the virtually completed River Exe flood protection scheme, looking down river. The picture was taken by photographer A. T. Kingdon, from the top of St. Peter's Church tower, Tiverton.

End of Tiverton flood scheme in sight

WORK on Tiverton's flood protection scheme on the River Exe will finish within the next week. The scheme entailed seven years of planning and four for building.

It is designed to protect the town against all but the extraordinary flood which may occur once in about 75 years, and will finish a year behind schedule.

After the initial years of planning, work started on

the £131,000 first stage of the scheme—the demolition and replacement of the 400-year-old Exe Bridge—in May, 1967.

The firm undertaking the contract, Messrs. Thomas Fletcher, a firm of civil engineers, of Mansfield and Nottingham, completed the work on the bridge, which was opened in October, 1968.

Work had started on the second phase, the biggest section of the flood plan—channel digging and wall building — when Messrs. Fletcher ceased functioning. At this time — December, 1969—£320,000 worth of the scheme had been completed.

The contract was re-written and offered for tender.

The Warrington-based firm of Messrs. A. Monk and Co., who were the main contractors for the Cullompton bypass, submitted a tender of £182,979, to complete the work. This was accepted and work restarted.

The flood walls along the banks have been completed and last week the line of piles which divided the Exe during the work, were removed.

All that remains to be done now is the reconstruction of a weir above the old railway bridge opposite the Roller Mills.

The weir will provide a clear stretch of placid river, in time of low water, for boating.