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THE PHYTOPLANKTON OF WINDERMERE

(ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT)

BY

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FOREWORD

Windermere is perhaps the most comprehensively studied of any lake in the United Kingdom. It has been investigated by botanists, zoologists, chemists, hydrologists and palaeolimnologists for nearly a hundred years. Datasets covering more than 50 years now provide invaluable baselines for many of today's studies on environmental changes. The scientific methods that have been applied to the collection and measurement of these data have been both rigorous and well described, adding substantially to the value of the long time-series of accumulated information.

Much of this effort is due to the presence of the Freshwater Biological Association, first in Wray Castle (1931–1950) and subsequently in The Ferry House (1950 to the present), on the shores of Windermere. More recently, with additional support from the Natural Environment Research Council through the Institute of Freshwater Ecology (1989–1998) and now the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, studies on Windermere have been the focus of considerable investment of both funding and expertise.

This book is a clear exposition of the lake's recent history and biology. The expertise of the authors is obvious, as is the importance of their colleagues' studies, which have provided a range of information, advice and illustrations. The FBA is pleased to be able to publish this volume on the phytoplankton of Windermere.

The Ferry House
October 2000

Roger Sweeting
Chief Executive, FBA

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