SUMMER

CLIMATE

- Temperate average temp around 10C
- Summer 18C, Winter 0C
- Warm wet summers, cool wet winters (some frosts)
- Rainfall 700-1000mm, rain all year, no dry season
- Long growing season, 8+ months
- Short daylight hours in winter

SOIL

- Brown Farth
- Thick litter layer due to the autumn leaf fall
- Rapid decomposition of humus
- Mull humus, slightly acidic
- Fertile well-drained soil

SEASONAL CHANGES

WINTER

- Fungi grow in damp conditions
- Trees lose leaves
- Ground flora die (bulbs, tubers)
- Insects are dormant
- Birds migrate

SUMMER

- Temperatures rise
- Ground flora grow in Spring
- Leaves grow (photosynthesis)
- Mammals emerge from hibernation
- Seeds and nuts are produced

TEMPERATE DECIDUOUS WOODLAND

CHARACTERISTICS / FEATURES

VEGETATION

- Broad leaf deciduous trees
- High levels of photosynthesis in summer
- Leaves shed in autumn (conserves moisture)
- High evaporation in summer limits water availability
- Trees oak, ash, elm, beech, maple
- Net Primary Productivity (NPP) 1200 g/m2/yr

The Four Seasons of Deciduous Forests

LOCATION

- NW Europe including UK
- Central Europe
- Eastern North America
- East Asia
- Around 40 55 degrees north
- Much cleared, some ancient woodlands remain

WOODLAND STRUCTURE

Layers – niches – stratum specificity

CANOPY up t o 50m, 8 species per hectare

dominant trees oak and ash

much photosynthesis

SHRUB LAYER up to 15 m

birch, hazel, holly, hawthorn

some climbers (epiphytes)

MANAGMENT STRATEGIES

AGRICULTURE ENCROACHMENT

DEFORESTATION FOR URBANISATION

THREATS

TIMBER PRODUCTION

RECREATION

- FORESTRY COMMISSION
- SSSI's (Sites of Special Scientific Interest)
- ANCIENT WOODLAND STATUS
- NATIONAL PARK STATUS
- AONB (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- COPPICE MANAGEMENT

!! SUTAINABILITY!!

FIELD (HERB) LAYERS

depends on light levels and leaf

growth / fall, therefore seasonal

spring, heliophytes (sunlovers) such

as bluebells, primrose.

summer, shade tolerant (ferns)

GROUND LAYER

mosses, lichens, fungi (saprophytes)