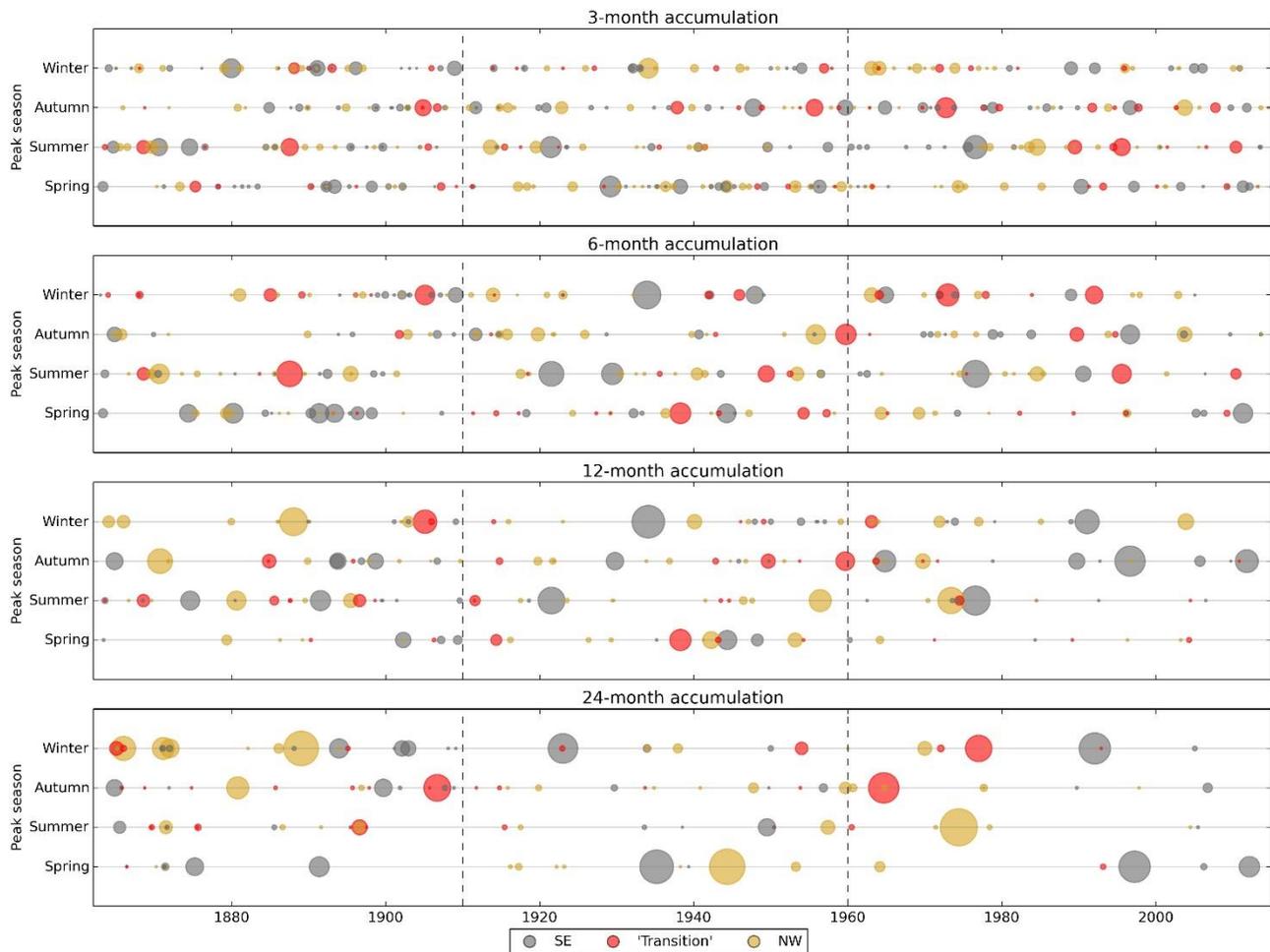
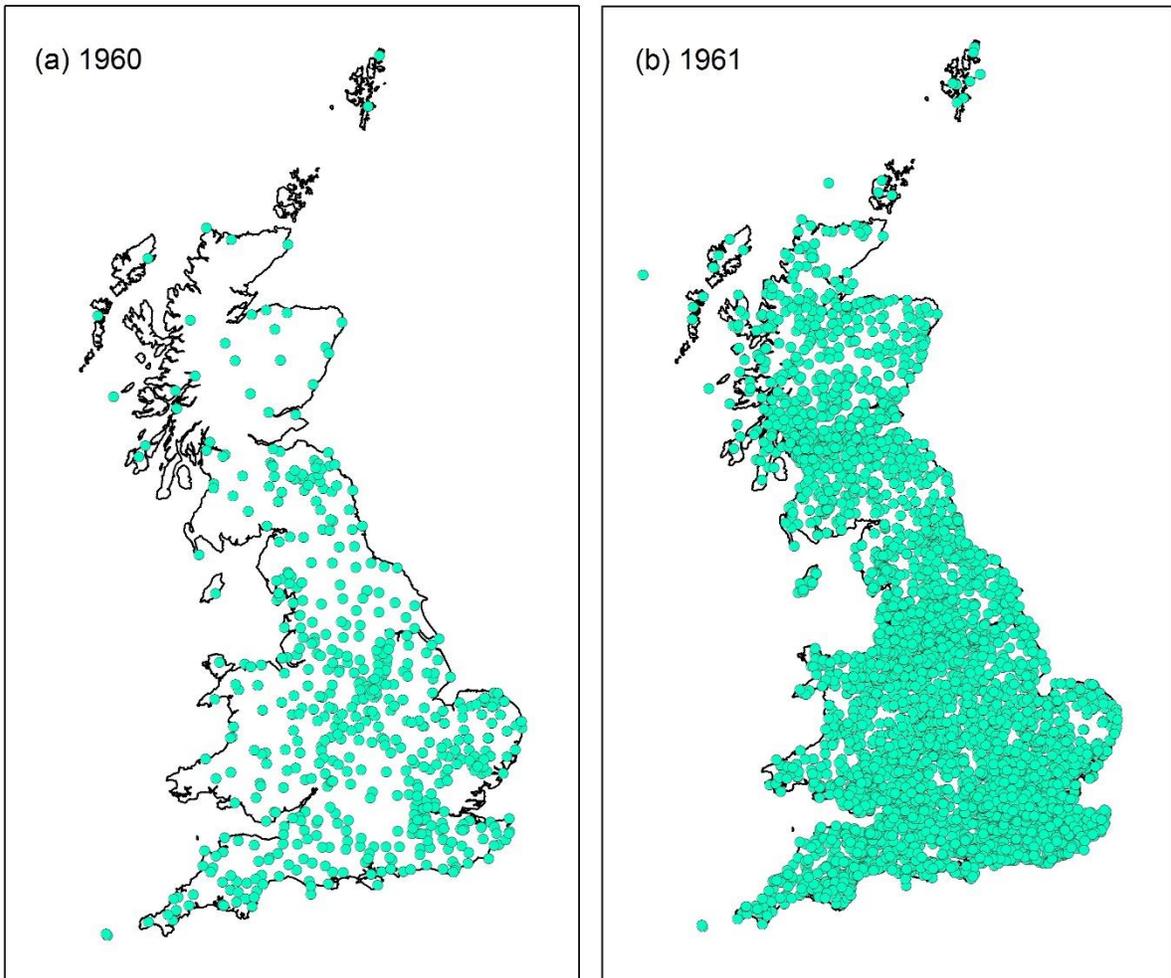


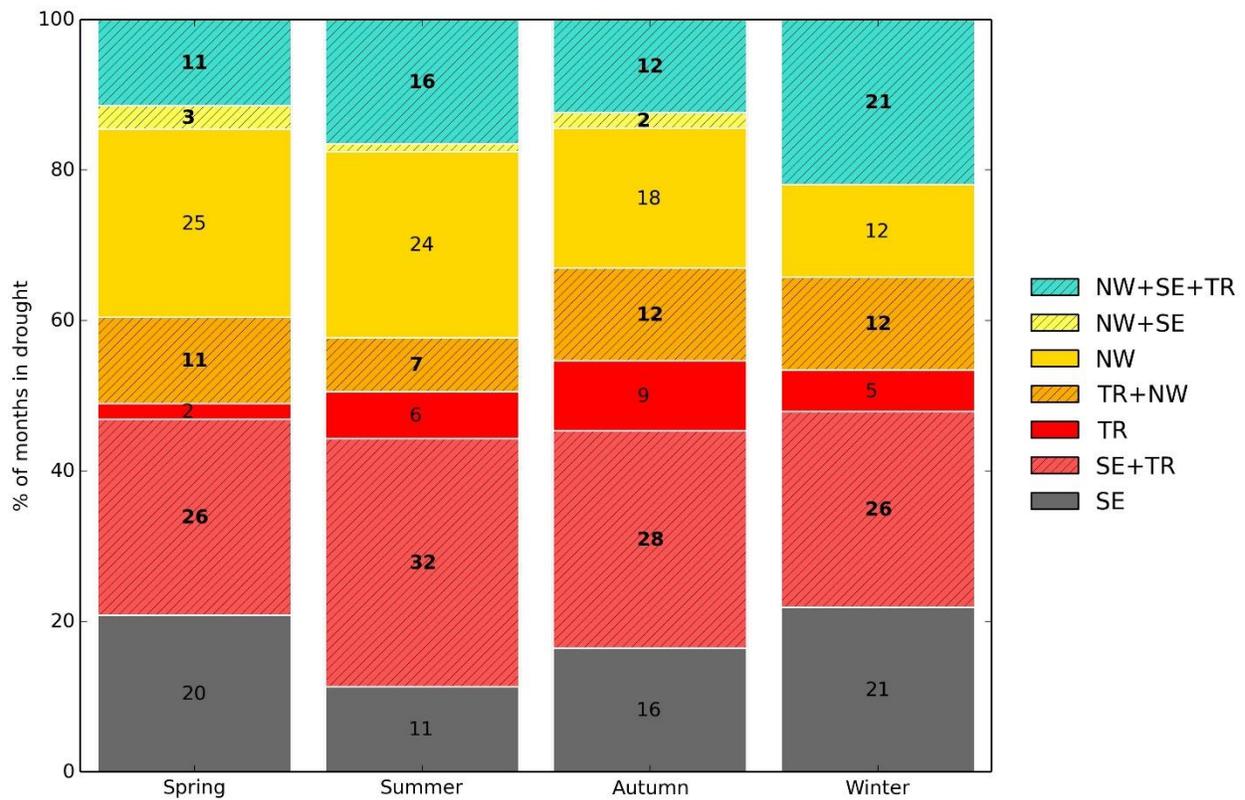
Supplementary Material



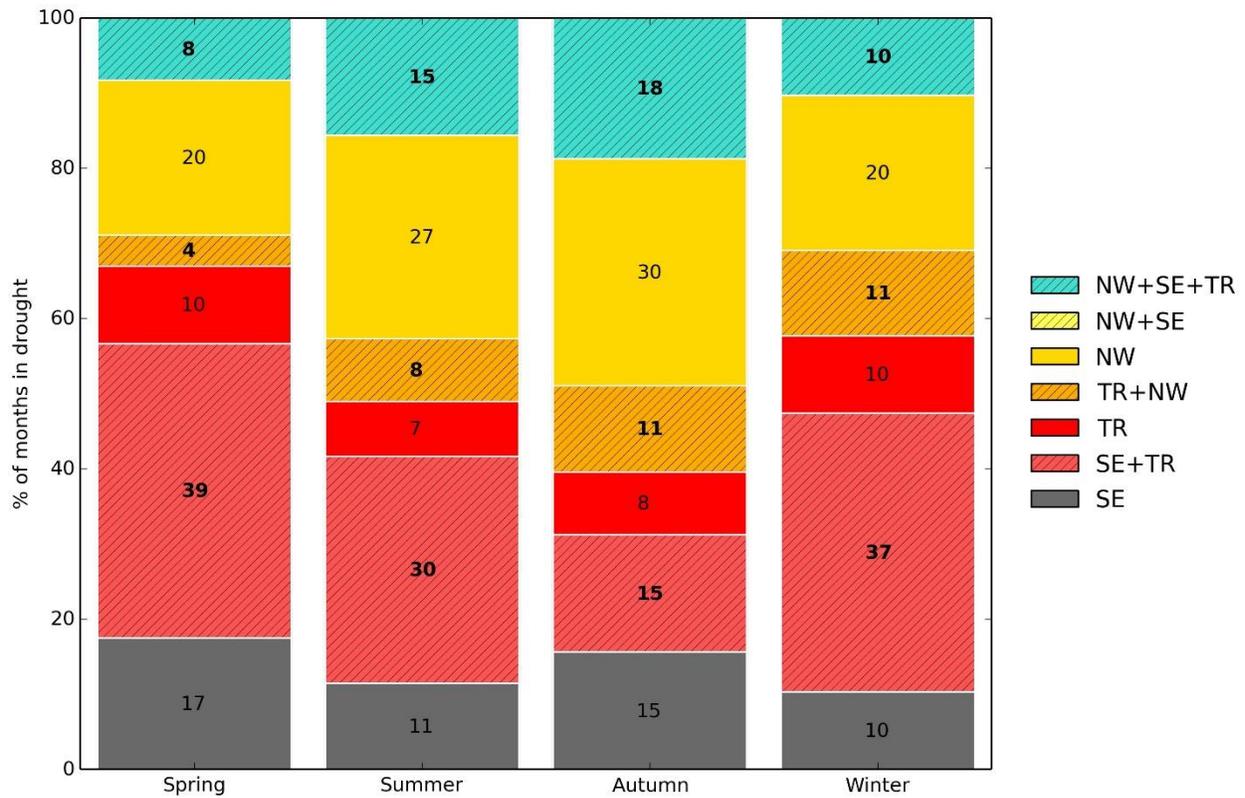
Supplementary Figure 1: Timeline of all drought events detected for accumulation periods of 3 months, 6 months, 12 months and 24 months (from top to bottom). The x axis shows the year of the peak of the drought (when the drought was most intense); the y axis shows the peak season of the drought event; the size of the dot is proportional to the severity of the drought (the bigger the dot, the more severe is the drought); and the colour of the dot indicates the region to which the drought event has been assigned.



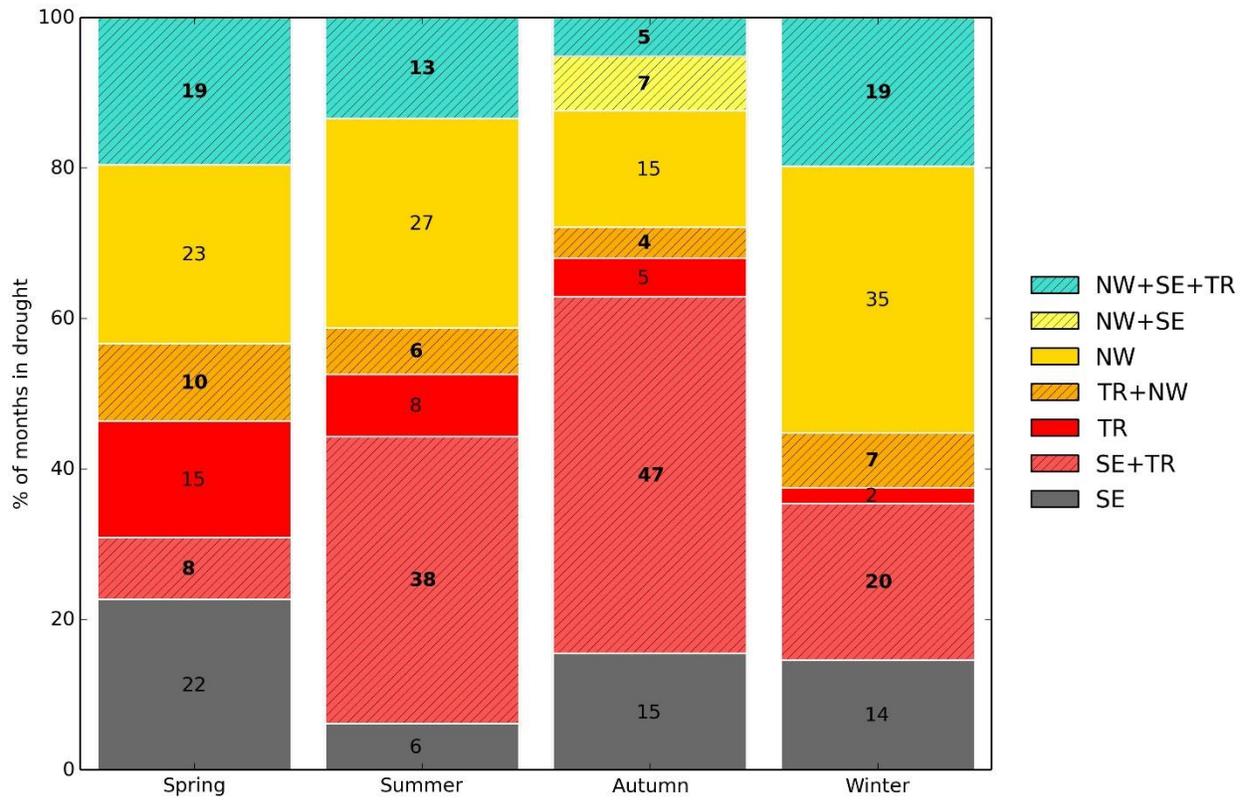
Supplementary Figure 2: Density of the monthly rain gauge network used by the Met Office to derive the gridded rainfall data (a) in 1960 and (b) in 1961.



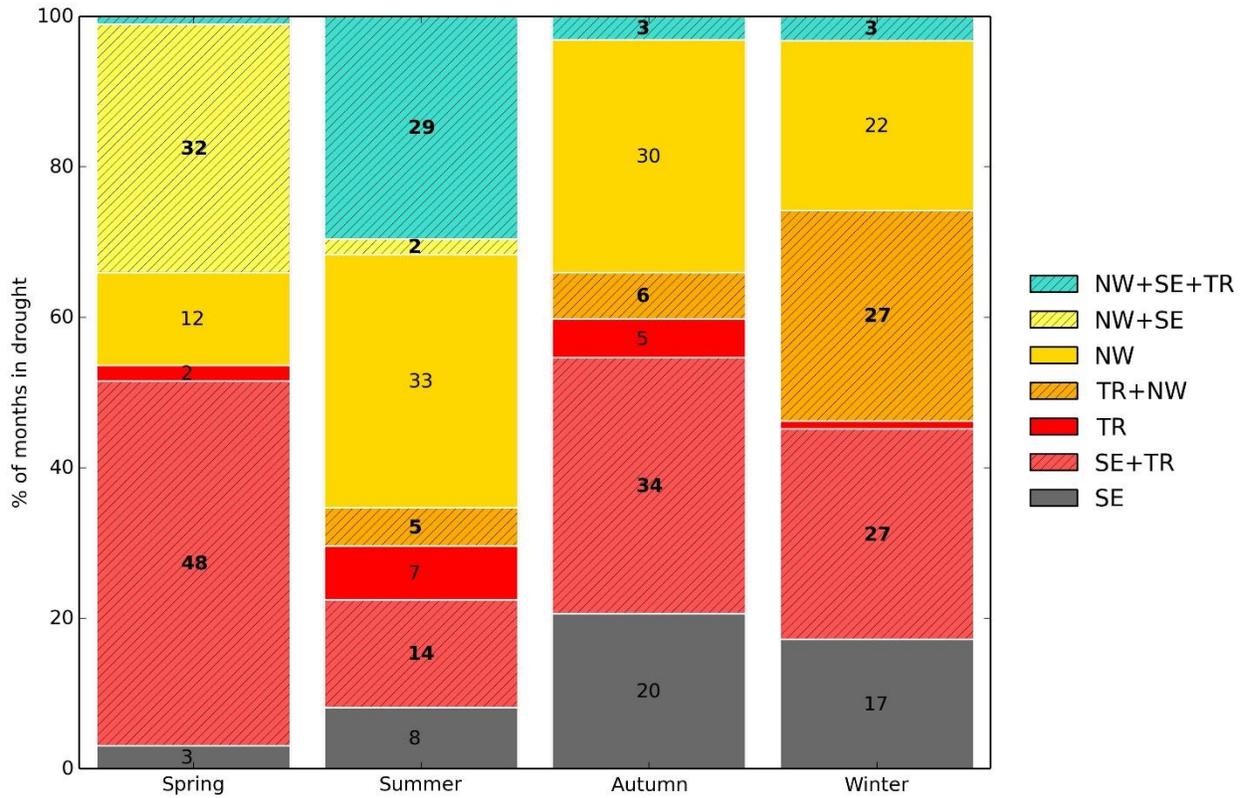
Supplementary Figure 3. Percentage of months in drought affecting the three regions, by season. The hatched area represents months in drought where multiple regions were affected simultaneously. ‘TR’ in the legend stands for the Transition region. This includes all drought events detected between 1862 and 2015 for an accumulation period of 3 months.



Supplementary Figure 4. Percentage of months in drought affecting the three regions, by season. The hatched area represents months in drought where multiple regions were affected simultaneously. ‘TR’ in the legend stands for the Transition region. This includes all drought events detected between 1862 and 2015 for an accumulation period of 6 months.



Supplementary Figure 5. Percentage of months in drought affecting the three regions, by season. The hatched area represents months in drought where multiple regions were affected simultaneously. ‘TR’ in the legend stands for the Transition region. This includes all drought events detected between 1862 and 2015 for an accumulation period of 12 months.



Supplementary Figure 6. Percentage of months in drought affecting the three regions, by season. The hatched area represents months in drought where multiple regions were affected simultaneously. ‘TR’ in the legend stands for the Transition region. This includes all drought events detected between 1862 and 2015 for an accumulation period of 24 months.