Editor’s comments.

Firstly, I would like to apologise for the time this has taken me.

Two reviewers have presented thorough and detailed reviews which include somewhat similar criticisms, primarily being that the manuscript does not offer much that is new, and also that the focus is rather confused between data assimilation and ensemble forecast assessment. They also offer a number of more detailed critical comments on the methodology. While the authors may feel they can rebut or take account of these,
the problem of content would remain. I don’t see any compelling reason to overturn their judgements and therefore cannot recommend revision of the manuscript.