1) In the Introduction, please provide a brief summary, by section (or where necessary sub-section), of the paper. This would be very useful to readers as an overview of the paper structure, so they are prepared when starting to read the full content.

R: Two paragraphs have been added at the end of the Introduction describing the organisation of the manuscript and the logic behind such organisation. The first paragraph is a summary of the Methods section, and the second paragraph summarises the Results section.

2) Note that use of a decade-long (1950-1960) period of the CRU TSv.1.2 time series introduces a risk of significant interdecadal internal variability 'aliasing' into the validation procedure. Ultimately, a standard 30-year independent validation period would have reduced this risk somewhat.

R: The following sentence has been included in the new paragraphs of the introduction (p.4, l.6-8) to specify this point: "Although a longer timeframe could be used to validate the method, potentially reducing the influence of interdecadal internal variability, we validated on an 11-year present-day time series distinct from the calibration period due to computational constraints."