Material Journeys

This little boat set out on a journey…

its material journey

from idea

to work in progress

to final, finished work

Took many forms of energy

Of thinking power
designing, drawing, problem solving, researching

Of manual making power
shaping, forming, wiping, grinding, polishing, cleaning…

But I wanted to know the 'other' embodied energy; of the material journey in making this little boat

This journey took us down the rabbit hole…
    of carbon footprint calculations…
    as someone said…know the beginning before the end…

But this boat was on a mission and disappeared down the hole,
    the sink hole, the plug hole…

Embodied energy
Embodied in the materials
Who counts?
What is emitted?
    plaster and molochite (0.29 and 0.55)
    wax (1.93)
    silicone Rubber (31.50)
    water (0.01)
    sheet glass (20.17)
    and granular glass (0.62)

Indirect Emissions
Energy
From materials…
    melting (0.04)
    steaming (3.15)
    firing (259.99)

Embodied energy in materials
Moving
From one place to another

Me, moving from one place to another
Travelling
    Journeywoman (46.78)

Indirect
Emissions
From materials
Moving (2.93)
Travelling
From one place to another

Who counts?
What is emitted?

Indirect
emissions
from being, somewhere, here
in a building, with lights on and heating (58.21)

So here we are…
a little boat
embodied energy
embodied material journeys…

428.62 carbon kilos
visualised
    a little glass paper boat
    a crashing wave…
    a plug hole…

down the rabbit hole we went

428.62 carbon kilos

One tree
Say it grows for twenty years
Will absorb 455 kilos of carbon in its life

Or

Maybe
over nineteen trees growing
In one year
Will absorb this carbon footprint

Down this plug hole
        a material journey
        a map barely explored

One material journey
One tree…

        …know the beginning before the end…

Inge Panneels

With huge thanks
To Creative Carbon Scotland for providing pointers
To Matt Jobling from the National Glass Centre for providing data
But mostly to Tom Jordan for collating the data and doing the calculations