

became popular. However, a Y-chain was placed in the Sutton Hoo burial-deposit together with cauldrons of both types. There is no evidence for Y-chains from Britain after this, but they are occasionally found in Scandinavia in the Viking period. Another insular feature is the large ring at the top of the chainwork with its implications for fixing round a pole. With allowances for the depth of the cauldron, the fire, the hearth and a space between the fire and the cauldron to prevent its bottom being burnt out, the chainwork must once have been supported from a beam about 3 m above the floor.

b) On the Continent rod-elements constructed like both element 2 and element 6 are found in the Early Iron Age, although no specimens in Britain are earlier than the 1st century B.C.²¹ On the other hand in Britain laced-double links are deposited in the form of scrap at Danebury as early as 100 B.C. and thus may have been made considerably earlier. They continue to be made in the Anglo-Saxon period. The distinctive anchor-shaped hooking-up device unfortunately cannot be closely dated either; it is yet another design with a long vogue on the Continent stretching from the La Tène to the 19th century.²² In this country it has only been found on the undated Over Fen II chainwork. Element 4 is perhaps the most closely datable. This large laced-double link depends from the anchor-hooks of element 3. It is considerably longer and more massive than the insignificant link which is found entwining the hooks of the late Iron Age tripod-chain from Standfordbury, Bedfordshire (Fox 1923, pl. XVII) and its continental counterparts. On Over Fen II the corresponding position is occupied by the first of 14 laced-double links of normal size and gauge. However, on the Burrow Hill chainwork the large link is physically separated from the sequence of laced links by a ringle. The only parallel for this would seem to be the cauldron-chain from Sutton Hoo. There we find exactly this use of an exceptionally large and elongated double link. In two instances, namely elements 17 and 19, it is used in a comparable position straddling the double-hooked terminals of element 18 (Fenwick 1983, figs. 378f; 379 d, f). Elsewhere on the Sutton Hoo chainwork, element 20 (ibid. fig. 380 c,d), there can be found the exact Burrow Hill sequence of a single-laced link/ringle/laced chain.

Conclusion

In East Anglia several distinctive chain-making traditions blended to produce simple chains like Over Fen I and II and elaborate chains like those from Sutton Hoo and North Elmham.²³ At present there is insufficient evidence to date these blends. Internal evidence indicates that the Burrow Hill cauldron-chain was not the product of such a fusion of traditions. It is tempting to identify it as a medium-

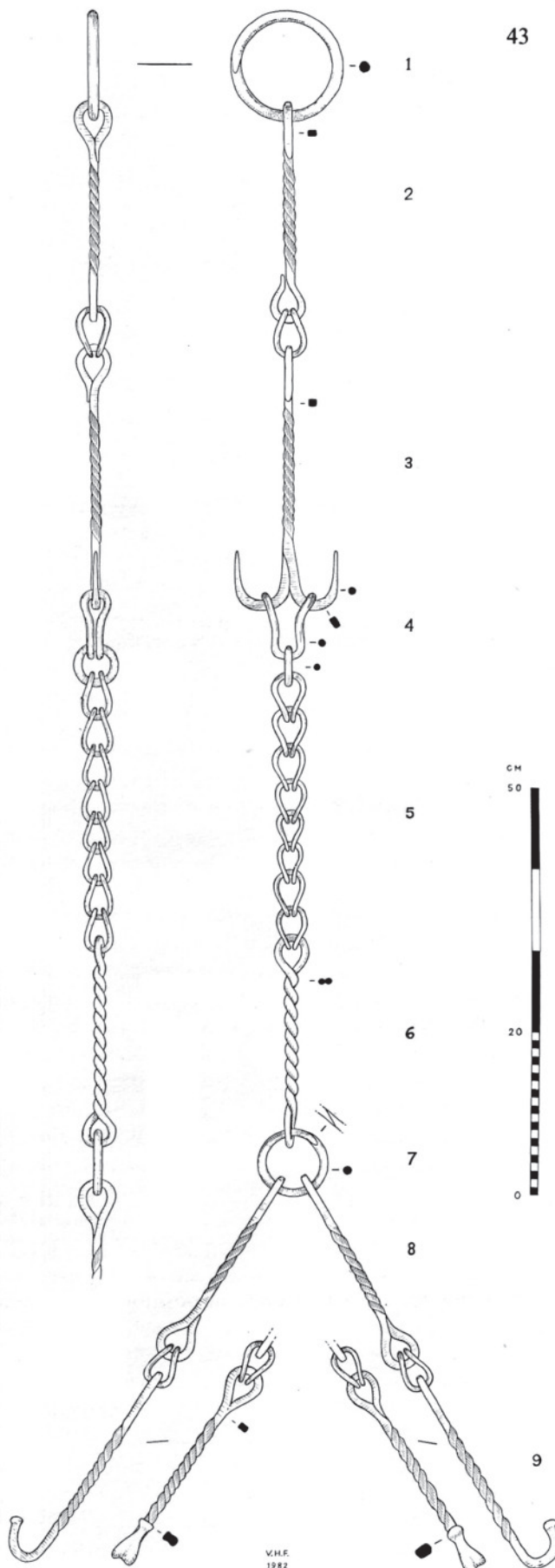


Fig. 6 Reconstruction of the cauldron-chain.