

Blemmyes Diagnostic Checklist

Conventional Decapitation vs. Predicted “Next Step” Population Graves

Feature	Conventional Decapitation (Ridgeway Hill type)	Predicted “Next Step” Population (Vráble / Flakstad type)	Weight
Skulls present in grave	Yes — often deliberately piled or placed elsewhere	No — completely absent from entire deposit	High
Detached cervical vertebrae	Usually present (1–2 per body)	Completely absent	High
Skull fragments or mandible pieces	Common in grave fill	None recovered	High
Cut-mark appearance	Sharp, clean, consistent with metal or very sharp stone	Irregular, ragged, or taphonomic settling marks	Medium-High
Tool debris (flakes, chippings)	Present if stone tools used	Absent or only whole tools/pebbles (their own weapons)	High
Number of individuals	Can be large (dozens to hundreds)	Often small clusters (tens, not hundreds) or double/triple graves	Medium
Evidence of metal use or forging	Often present	None — consistent with thermoregulation constraint	High

How to Use This Checklist

Score each feature present or absent. If 4+ of the first five features match the left column → conventional decapitation. If 4+ match the right column (especially absence of skulls/vertebrae/fragments + no tool flakes) → strong candidate for the predicted “next step” population.

Migration Path (Nubia → Guianas)

Most logical warm-climate route: From Eastern Desert / Lower Nubia core, southwest through Sudan and Chad into West Africa, then a shorter central Atlantic crossing (~2,500–3,000 miles) directly to the Guianas. This path stays in warm equatorial latitudes the entire way and avoids cold northern routes. The two independent 1595 (Raleigh) and 1618–1625 (Lourenszoön) accounts in the Guianas sit at the logical endpoint of this trajectory.

Primary matching sites so far: Vráble (Slovakia) — 77 headless, skulls & detached vertebrae completely absent; Flakstad (Norway) — double/triple graves, C3-level pattern, no detached vertebrae or skull fragments.

This checklist turns the Vráble vs. Ridgeway Hill contrast into a practical field tool for classifying any future mass grave or clustered headless burials.