

### **Details of the proposed work: Ntshokane**

The proposed project involves standard archaeological procedures. During my second permit period (ended 31 May 2019), we excavated several features including granary foundations, pits and erosion-exposed burials (see Huffman & Whitelaw n.d.; Owens 2018). These features covered three phases of the KwaZulu-Natal Early Iron Age, plus the Blackburn phase of the Late Iron Age. The ceramics show that the site was occupied between about AD 600 and 1200 (including *Blackburn*). Future work includes further excavation and mapping, and especially the analysis and publication of the finds, which will involve specialists in dating and faunal analysis. Also, the recovered human remains offer the potential for human DNA research that can, for example, provide a way of approaching research challenges relating to farmer/hunter-gatherer interactions (e.g. Steyn et al. 2019).

### **References**

- Huffman, T.N. & Whitelaw, G. (n.d. submitted and accepted) Ntshokane and the Central Cattle Pattern: reconstructing settlement history. In D. Whitley, J. Loubser & G. Whitelaw (eds), *Cognitive archaeology: mind, ethnography, and the past in South Africa and beyond*. Routledge.
- Owens, L. (2018) Interim report on the human skeletal remains recovered at Ntshokane, Tugela Basin, during the 2015 and 2017 excavation seasons. Report on file in the KwaZulu-Natal Museum.
- Steyn, M., Whitelaw, G., Botha, D., Vicente, M., Schlebusch, C.M. & Lombard, M. (2019) Four Iron Age women from KwaZulu-Natal: biological anthropology, genetics and archaeological context. *Southern African Humanities* 32: 23–56.