

4.2 Social Environment

4.2.1 Socio-economic

The following criteria were used for the social sensitivity mapping:

- **Distance from proposed ash dam** – In general terms and in a way linked to the quality of life that includes perceptions etc. would suggest that this criteria be considered a medium sensitivity issue due to the context including mining and heavily disturbed areas to the north of the power station;
- **Settlement type** – linked to the above, distance but has distinctive issues. Residential will normally include schools and all other community supporting facilities. Therefore residential areas are considered to have a higher sensitive.
- **Settlement farms** – distinguished between one farm house and a small community, farm house as well as employee housing etc. This also includes the so-called informal settlements of those that are normally economic and otherwise marginalized.
- **Health risk (Including Dust Pollution)** – also somewhat related to distance but has distinct features which do not necessarily relate to distance. It can be accepted that the ash dam could impact one's health within a radius of approximately 3 km will.
- **Visual impact** – direct line of sight – a low sensitivity is linked to this issue due to the fact that these are is heavily changed due to mining and the power station.
- **Economic impact** – the sterilisation of agricultural land is seen as sensitive due to the potential economic loss of 209 ha. This issue can be explored on an individual, regional and national context.

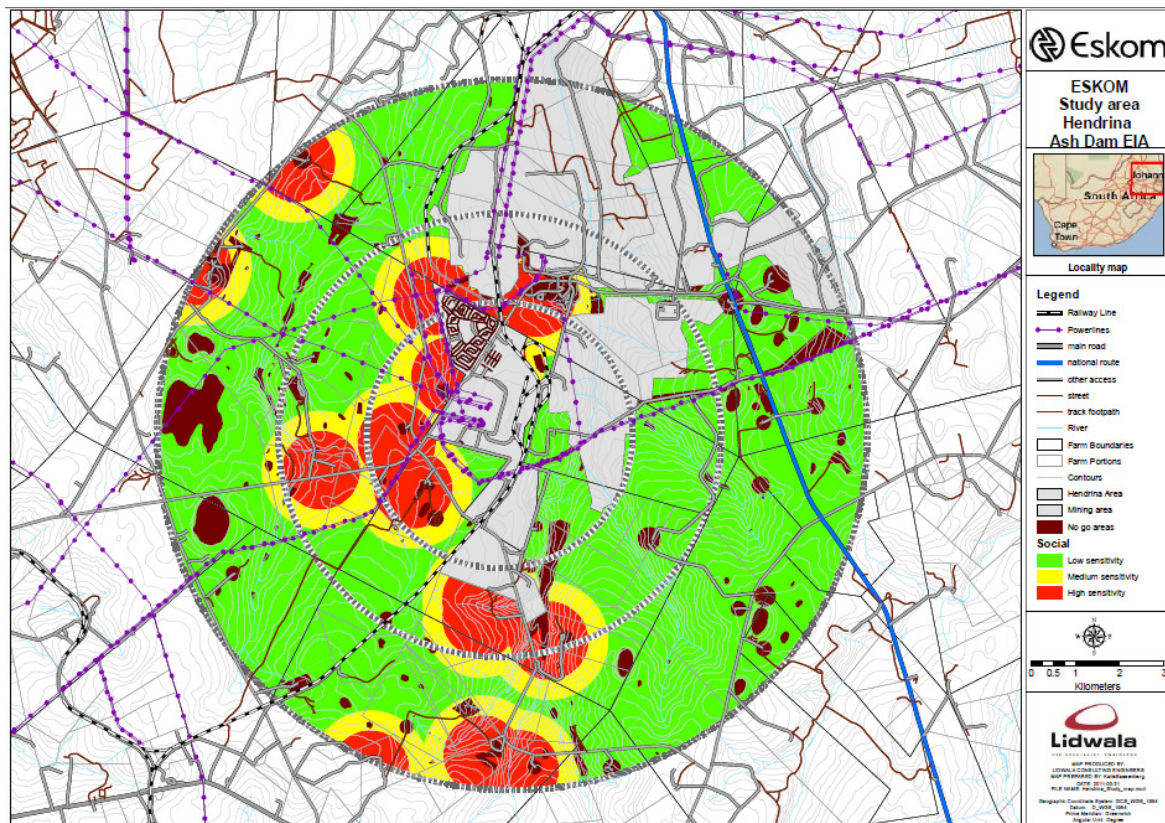


Figure 4.8: Social Sensitivity map

4.2.2 Heritage

Very little work has been done within the study area with regards to heritage studies. The only known significant heritage sites are situated outside of the study area and are therefore more than 8km from the power station. Due to the lack of information the sensitivity of the area from a heritage point of view is deemed to be of medium sensitivity as one can not state categorically that there are no heritage sites of value, however due to the fact that the study area is characterised by agricultural, industrial and mining activities a lower sensitivity has been assigned to the study area for screening purposes. A detailed study will be undertaken on each site that is identified from this screening analysis to ensure that the localised sites are free from heritage sites and artefacts.