2.1. **Descriptor model**

The initial aging influence diagram was developed by capturing existing ideas from the project technical specialist and then allowing the model to extend into related subjects.

It was clear from an early stage that it would not be possible to map and model the full extent of the possible system, which would encompass large areas of soil science, climatic effects, materials science, biology and chemistry. Figure 2 illustrates the process from the initial identification of components of importance in the mine through the expansion of the diagram to incorporate a range of physical, environmental and climatic factors. The process demonstrates the extent to which ‘mission creep’ can lead to the inclusion of an exceptionally wide-ranging group of factors. There is great value in being aware of the extent of the influences relating to landmine aging, but pragmatic decision-making must take place to ensure that project activity remains within clear, achievable boundaries. Nevertheless, there are areas within all these disciplines which may justify further review and research in any future extension of the landmine aging study.

![Figure 2. Initial landmine aging influence diagram (ID)](image)

The descriptor model was developed as part of the internal project process, but the use of this and similar influence diagrams will provide important input in future work to develop aging models and user tools further.