An archaeological site is a place where humans have lived or spent time. Artifacts, features, and ecofacts can all be found on these sites.
Archaeological Context

Context refers to how and where artifacts, ecofacts, and features are found in the ground. By paying close attention to context we learn a lot more information about the past.

Layers form over time and trap artifacts together. These trapped artifacts are in context together. What can you interpret about the artifacts from each layer in the two sites above?
Types of archaeological finds: Artifacts

An artifact is an object made, used, or altered by humans.

Antler effigy comb

Arrow points

Clay pipe

All above examples are drawn from artifacts found on the Lawson Site.
Types of archaeological finds: Features

A feature is something made or built by humans that can't be collected like artifacts. Features might be too large, too fragile, or evidence of something that is no longer there.

Other examples of features are:
- Garbage pits
- Burials
- Storage pits
- Building foundations
- Clusters of artifacts
Types of archaeological finds: Ecofacts

An ecofact is a term used to classify natural objects that have been used by people with no modification.

Examples of ecofacts are:

- Animal bones from a meal,
- Pollen from a gathered plant,
- If a bone has been modified into a necklace or a harpoon point, that modification makes it an artifact.