6 - Site Assessment

The Davies Orchard area poses some challenges but also offers some great opportunities.

Key Opportunities

- Celebrate the history of Davies Orchard as a place to gather, picnic and enjoy nature
- Capitalize on the amazing views of the mountains and ocean
- Enhance public use of Davies Orchard through simple devices such as improved entrances, wayfinding and sightlines
- Make changes to where vehicles are allowed, so that parking is away from prominent places and there are clear pedestrian-only areas
- Use orchard to help frame open spaces, complemented with interpretive opportunities around the history and ecology of the area

Key Challenges

- Views of ocean and mountains obscured by cottages, parking and vegetation
- A lack of clearly defined public space contributes to the underuse of Davies Orchard by the public
- Steep slope next to the Lady Alexandra Promenade boardwalk on the eastern edge impairs physical and visual access to Davies Orchard
- The entrances and overall appearance of the area suggest that it might be a private area – not open to the public
- The condition and uses of the cottages don’t suggest they’re open to the public