Flax and Hemp grown near the village of Grange, prior to 1828

Using the plan of Lands at Grange prepared for the auction on 28 August 1828 of John Wilkinson’s estate. (1)
On the plan, the Crown Inn is shown, (top right, beneath the word GRANGE), and just to the east, the track now called Bailey Lane.

Kents Bank Road, as it is now known, runs North to South through the plan, and bends to the west at the southern end, with the words, “from Cart Lane”. The track which became Grange Fell Road runs to the west, with the words, “from Cartmel”

Hard Crag, above Lot 1, as it was formerly known, at this time appears to be a 2 or 3 bay linear building, not included in the sale, but its barn was. This was listed as “Barn, Stable and Shippon”, and note that the track passed between the Hall and the barn.

Of particular interest is that the field, Lot 1, in front of Hard Crag, containing the barn, is called Hempland, which indicates that flax and hemp were grown on this field. Pat Rowland and I have found evidence of an extensive industry growing and processing flax and hemp. This is perhaps not surprising as many hemp lands were established to comply with the Statutes of 1533, (Henry VIII) and the re-issue of 1563, (Elizabeth I), which said that for every 60 acres under the plough, one quarter of an acre of flax and hemp must be sown. (2) As Hard Crag is one of the earliest extant buildings in Grange, its landholdings may have been extensive.

At some stage, before 1891, the barn was demolished, and the bend of the road re-aligned slightly to the south, so that the present Fell Road passes over the field previously known as Hempland.

The other field name of particular interest is Templand Field or Borndale, Lot 6. There is a possibility that the field belonged to the settlement or farm of Templand, near Allithwaite. Templand is mentioned in a list of possessions of Cartmel Priory contained in a Duchy of Lancaster document of Rentals and Surveys, 1536 to 1538:__

CARK, HOLKER, BROUGHTON, AYSOME, TEMPLELAND, AYNSIDE(sic), HAZELRIGG, NEWTON, KENT’S BANK, FLOOKBURGH, WALTON, CARTMEL FELL, STAVELEY, SEATTLE, HUMPHREY HEAD, ROSTHWAITE, BULLEBURGH(?),
THORPINSTY, HEST, SILVERDALE QUARRY FLAT, VULHOUSE(?), FINTHWAITE, SHEPERAKE, LINDALE, CARTMEL, BARNGARTH, HAMPSFELL, BIRKBY, RAVEN WINDER. (3)

A similar list relating to the Duchy of Lancaster in 1538-1539 survives, but Cartmel Priory is not mentioned. Places not mentioned earlier include:

NEWTON divided into UPPER and LOWER, MIRESIDE, CHANON WINDER, DALTON. (4) If the Knight’s Templars were not involved in the Templand of Allithwaite, the other possibility is that Templand derived from “The Hemland", an example of eliding. To explain further what is meant by eliding, the following is an extract from “A Glossary of the Dialect of the Hundred of Lonsdale” by R. B. Peacock, ed. Rev. J.C. Atkinson, 1869.

“T’ = article the In Lonsdale, as in Craven, and in the North generally, this article suffers from elision,

even when the next word begins with a consonant; as in “t’woman” “t’kye” for “the woman” the “cows” “.

Therefore, Templand field could be another flax and hemp growing area. Calling a field Templand also distinguishes it from Hempland field, as unique field names helped identify them for tax and tithe purposes.

The area shown on the map was developed with housing in the 19th and early 20th century.

Looking at the 1891 25” OS map, Templand field lies to the north-west of Rockland Road, and down to the northern junction with Fernleigh Road.

David Shore and Pat Rowland
Sources

(1) Lancashire Archives DDHH 1/186(2) 1532 (24 Hen.8 ) c.4 An Act concerning sowing of Flax and Hemp.

(3) The National Archives-Duchy of Lancaster DL 43/19/9 and DL 43/19/15 (Spellings in the Transcript not checked against the original document)

(4) The National Artchives-Duchy of Lancaster DL 43/4/15 (Spellings as above)