



Figure 2 Hen harrier

To try to help resolve this conflict, scientists are currently conducting experiments to test whether hen harrier populations can be increased at the same time as reducing their negative impact on grouse populations. The information can then be used to inform decisions about how best to conserve grouse, harriers and moorland habitats. This is an example of How science works (HSW: F & L). The experiment will be carried out in two large areas where harriers are currently rare. Within these areas, the results of two strategies on the size of harrier and grouse populations will be measured:

- Killing hen harrier chicks, or moving them to a different location, when the harrier population size reaches an agreed ceiling.
- Providing alternative sources of food for hen harriers.



Figure 3 Red grouse

- 4 In each of the following, suggest a reason why:
- a The experiment will take at least 5 years to produce any findings.
 - b An independent body, acceptable to both conservation groups and grouse managers will be needed to oversee the experiment.
 - c The sites chosen for the experiment are ones where harriers can be expected to colonise relatively quickly.
 - d Each experimental area will contain a number of different moorland sites managed by different individuals.
 - e Some people are concerned about the long-term implications of a suspension, however temporary, to the legal protection of harriers that would be required during the experiment.
- 5 How do scientific experiments such as this one help to inform decision-making?