

The group expects to reach the upper end of analysts' forecasts for underlying EBITDA of £116.0mIn to £122.9mIn.

The interim dividend was lifted 11.6% to 1.83p.

Wakeley added: "We continue to make good progress against our long-term strategy with sustainable organic growth, progressive margin and dividend expansion, and the utilisation of strong cash flow to invest in new capabilities whilst strengthening the balance sheet. We remain committed to disciplined capital allocation into our best-performing assets to sustain continued earnings growth".

Shares gained 12.5% to 234p in morning trading.

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