SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The specification details an energy absorbing apparatus which is in the form of a hollow elongate barrier section which can be used as the terminal end of a barrier. The barrier section has a plurality of fold points positioned there along which facilitate folding up of the barrier to absorb energy during a head on (end on) impact with the barrier.

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided an energy absorbing apparatus comprising:

- an outer shell having opposed ends and~~with~~ a left and right side wall and ~~having~~ a hollow core; and

wherein the shell comprises~~has been adapted to have~~ a plurality of longitudinally spaced apart fold points positioned on the left and right side wall only at a height which substantially corresponds to the centre third, with respect to the height thereof, of the left and right side walls~~of gravity of a road vehicle~~; and

wherein the fold points facilitate a controlled folding up of the sides and at least part of shell, at or around, the fold points, during an end~~head~~ on impact.

Preferably, although not exclusively, the energy absorbing apparatus may have left and right side walls which are corrugated when viewed in transverse cross section. The ridges being the strongest points of the barrier. In some preferred embodiments at least one ridge in the corrugated walls includes the fold points.

Preferably, the controlled folding up of the barrier, at or near, the fold points is in the nature of a concertinaing action wherein at least portion of the barrier collapses in folds resembling those of a concertina.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:

1. An energy absorbing apparatus comprising:

- an outer shell having opposed ends and a left and right side wall and a hollow core; and

wherein the shell comprises a plurality of longitudinally spaced apart fold points positioned on the left and right side wall only at a height which substantially corresponds to the centre third, with respect to the height thereof, of the left and right side walls; and

wherein the fold points facilitate a controlled folding up of the sides and at least part of shell, at or around, the fold points, during an end on impact.

2. An energy absorbing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the apparatus is in the form of an elongate barrier section.

3. An energy absorbing apparatus as claimed above wherein the apparatus has left and right side walls which are corrugated when viewed in transverse cross section.

4. An energy absorbing apparatus as claimed in claim 3 wherein at least one ridge of the corrugated walls include the fold points.

5. A temporary barrier wherein the barrier includes a number of elongate barrier sections connected to one another and wherein at least one terminal end of the barrier includes an energy absorbing apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or 2.