CLAIMS

1. A clamp spring for spreading the load from a clamp mounted around a tubular member, the spring comprising a resilient body having first and second ends and an internal surface adapted to seat within a clamp member and an external surface adapted to contact the outer surface of a tubular member, the internal and external surfaces extending between the first and second ends and wherein the stiffness of the resilient body of the spring varies over the length of the body between the first and second ends, the stiffness being higher towards the first and second ends of the resilient body than in the centre of the body.

2. The spring according to claim 1, wherein the body of the spring is arcuate.

3. The spring according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the stiffness of the body varies gradually from the first and second ends towards the centre of the body.

4. The spring according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the external surface of the body is undulating in form.

5. The spring according to claim 4, wherein the external surface of the body comprises a plurality peaks and troughs along the external surface of the spring.

6. The spring according to claim 5, wherein the peaks on the external surface of the spring each have the same height relative to the adjacent trough.

7. The spring according to claim 5, wherein the height of the peaks on the external surface of the spring relative to the adjacent tough vary along the length of the spring.

8. The spring according to claim 7, wherein the height of the peaks on the external surface of the spring closest to the centre of the spring relative to the adjacent toughs is higher than the height of the peaks closer to the first and second ends of the spring relative to the adjacent troughs.

9. The spring according to any of claims 1-3, wherein voids are formed in the body.

10. The spring according to claim 9, wherein the voids have different volumes and or shapes over the length of the spring between the first and second ends.

11. The spring according to claim 10, wherein the voids adjacent the first and second ends of the spring are smaller in volume and or size than the voids closer to the centre of the spring.

12. The spring according to any of claims 1-11, wherein the resilient body comprises rubber.

13. The spring according to claim 12, wherein the resilient body comprises nitrile rubber.

14. The spring according to any of claims 1-11, wherein the resilient body comprises polyurethane.

15. The spring according to any of claims 1-11, wherein the resilient body comprises fibre re-enforced plastics.

16. A clamp component for attachment to a tubular member, the clamp component comprising a housing and a spring according to any of claims 1-15 mounted within a seat on an inner face of the housing.

17. A clamp comprising a clamp body, the clamp body comprising a plurality of clamp components according to claim 16.

18. The clamp according to claim 17, wherein the clamp has 2, 3 or 4 clamp components.

19. The clamp according claim 17 or 18, wherein the clamp has tensioning means for securing said components around a tubular member.

20. The clamp according to claim 19, wherein the tensioning means comprises a band surrounding the clamp.